

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2006 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany from May 21–June 3 of this year. During this two-week exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat Members, Bundestag and Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Participants also will be hosted by a Bundestag Member during a district visit.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for two weeks July 9–22. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Members of Congress. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two staffers in their Member's district in

July, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Senators and Representatives who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications may be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HB–28, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15.

2006 ACHIEVING CAO EXCELLENCE AWARDS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rob von Gogh, Charlene Best, Ron Carrico, Chantel Greene, Matt Guilfoyle, and Tina Hanonu on their extraordinary achievements in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, (CAO) supporting the United States House of Representatives and their receipt of the 2006 Achieving CAO Excellence (ACE) Awards. The 2006 CAO ACE Excellence Awards acknowledge the extraordinary efforts made by these members of the CAO team. These awards exemplify the goals, values, and mission of the organization. Considered to be among the highest honors awarded to CAO staff, at the heart of these awards are customer service, commitment to delivery solutions, and high standards of excellence.

Recipients of the 2006 CAO ACE Excellence Awards represent many areas of the CAO and perform a variety of jobs. Whether working directly with customers, supporting CAO internal operations, or ensuring the technical infrastructure is operational, each serves as an exemplary role model for the entire CAO community. Collectively and individually they delivered solutions that fulfilled the CAO customer experience, ensuring full satisfaction for their customers and colleagues.

Employees nominated for an award must be in full-time status, have received at least one PACE evaluation, and have a current performance rating of excelling. Nominations for the awards are submitted by managers, supervisors, deputies and associate administrators. The nominees are then reviewed by a committee comprised of the head of each CAO business unit, the deputy CAO for operations, the deputy CAO for strategy, the administrative counsel, and other members of the CAO team.

Rob von Gogh was selected for the "CAO Excellence" award. In his role directing the CAO client services team and serving on the CAO leadership group, he has been a role model CAO employee who lives the CAO mission, vision, values, and delivers the CAO customer experience to all his customers, colleagues and employees.

Charlene Best is the 2006 recipient of the "Knowledge" award for being an employee who is dependable and gets things done across the organization by leveraging a wide range of CAO resources. Her ability to set-up and establish office space for the new House Historian in a seamless manner demonstrates her unique understanding of the House community.

Ron Carrico was chosen for the "Personalized Solutions" award. He developed a product for the CAO that met current needs and incorporated the structure for future integrations with other enterprise system solutions that are being developed in the CAO for the House Community, specifically: MicroStrategy 8, Administrative Tools, Links and Solutions—Atlas, Lawson and the Customer Solution Delivery Model. This solution will provide the capability to report "near real time" performance measures. His consistently passionate customer service, effective communication, and problem solving enable customers to meet their professional and personal roles.

Chantel Greene was selected for the "Dedicated" award for exhibiting commitment to achieving the mission of the CAO. Through adversity, Chantel was able to lead others, build consensus and live the CAO customer experience. Her positive attitude is an inspiration to others and it is the key to her success.

Matt Guilfoyle is the recipient of the "One Team" award. He is relentless in his efforts and commitment to developing the CAO customer experience. The essence of his hard work and dedication to bring the CAO together was evidenced in the success of CAOne. He consistently and significantly contributes to the CAO team as a whole, bringing the CAO customer experience to life.

Tina Hanonu was chosen for the "Simplify the Day" award. Her ability to improve CAO client services procedures during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita enabled the CAO to provide reassurance and sustain service for district offices affected by the hurricanes. Tina's energy, drive, and enthusiasm enabled the House Recovery Operations Center to support and achieve results during such demanding times.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Rob von Gogh, Charlene Best, Ron Carrico, Chantel Greene, Matt Guilfoyle, and Tina Hanonu for their tireless efforts and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish them continued success in their job endeavors.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING WLTL: A RADIO STATION OWNED BY ILLINOIS DISTRICT 204 AND OPERATED BY THE STUDENTS OF LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor WLTL, the radio station operated by the students of Lyons Township High School.

WLTL is a noncommercial radio station located at Lyons Township High School in La Grange, IL approximately 15 miles west of the Chicago Loop. The radio station is owned by Illinois School District 204 and is operated by the students of Lyons Township High School. For more than 100 years, LTHS has exhibited its motto of Vita Plena or the quest for the fulfilling life by servicing students from more than 10 communities.

The radio station was first established in 1922. However, it was not officially recognized until January 5, 1968. Each year, a team of student managers is selected to operate the station under the guidance of a general manager. All students attending Lyons Township High School are welcome to join the WLTL team. The various positions include on-air disc jockeys, engineers and news broadcasters. If a student has an interest in becoming an on air personality, he or she has to complete an audition.

As one of the largest academic clubs at Lyons Township High School, WLTL received numerous awards at the 2005 John Drury Awards Ceremony. In 2004, WLTL was again named the best high school radio station in the Nation by the John Drury Awards—the first award came in 2002. The radio station has also been the winner of the Crystal Award of Excellence by the Communicator Awards for the past 8 years, a major accomplishment for any radio station. Because of the student's diligence in providing quality journalism, WLTL continues to have an impressive reputation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in praising the many accomplishments of School District 204 and the faculty and students of Lyons Township High School for the professional manner in which they operate the programming of the WLTL radio. It is my honor to bestow best wishes for the continued success of WLTL programming.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF GLENDALE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Glendale on its historic 100th anniversary.

Today, the city of Glendale fills a major portion of the geographical triangle formed by the Sierra Madre Foothills, the L.A. River, and the Arroyo Seco. It was these 36,400 acres of woodland, chaparral and grassland inhabited by Native Americans known as Gabrielinos that attracted the attention of CPL Jose Maria Verdugo of the Spanish army. In 1798, Cor-

poral Verdugo established title to the Rancho San Rafael. The Rancho included most of present day Glendale, Burbank, Eagle Rock, and Highland Park. In 1831, Mr. Verdugo died and passed Rancho San Rafael to his two children. It was not until 30 years later that the children divided the Rancho between them. In 1871, a court decision known as the "Great Partition" was made dissolving Rancho San Rafael into smaller parcels. Homes and businesses began to spring up, and in 1887, the County Recorder finally registered the "Town of Glendale."

In 1906, the city of Glendale was incorporated and consisted of 1,486 acres. The Grand Central Airport and Southern Pacific train depot connected Glendale to other communities. Civic organizations were organized and churches thrived. During the 1920s, Brand Boulevard grew into a modern commercial street lined with automobile showrooms, stores, and banks. The population increased from 13,756 in 1920 to 62,736 in 1930. In the 1970s a surge of development continued to make Glendale a bustling business center. During the 1980s and 1990s, the population grew dramatically with the arrival of thousands of immigrants from all over the world. In the year 2000, the city's population was about 195,000. Today, traditional neighborhood centers are flourishing and historic residential architecture and landmarks are increasingly appreciated.

Glendale is a true jewel in the State of California. I am proud of the unique privilege I have had to represent the city of Glendale in both the State Senate and now in the U.S. Congress. I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating the city of Glendale on its centennial celebration.

RECOGNIZING UAW LOCAL 1292 WALTER REUTHER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of 4 individuals selected by UAW Local 1292 to receive the Walter Reuther Distinguished Service Award.

The Walter Reuther Distinguished Service Award is one way the United Automobile Workers acknowledges the contributions made by its members, public officials and community leaders, to the advancement of working people and their families. The achievements of each recipient are registered with the Wayne State University Labor and Urban Affairs Archives at Wayne State University creating a permanent record.

UAW Local 1292 has selected four persons to receive this prestigious award. These people exemplify the attitude of Walter Reuther and strong commitment to serving their fellow UAW members.

Russell Cummins has served the membership for over 19 years. He has held the positions of Alternate Committeeman, Trustee and Veterans Representative.

Barbara J. Eastman has served as a Trustee, a Guide, Recording Secretary, on the Edu-

cation Committee, Women's Committee, the Building Committee, and the CSC for the past 19½ years.

For the past 20½ years, Ruth A. St. Pierre worked on the Women's Committee, Elections, Civil Rights, Citizenship and Legislation, Education, Union Label, and as the Retiree Recording Secretary.

Eva Thornton started her career as a Benefits Representative in 1988 and has continued in that position until the present day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these four individuals for their outstanding service to the UAW. They have exhibited the character to persevere in the fight for justice and human dignity. Working men and women have benefited by their generosity of time and courage.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MORRIS W. KING

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect, admiration and much sorrow, that I rise today to remember the life of Morris W. King, the 52nd President of the Hartly Volunteer Fire Company. Mr. King, of Smyrna, Delaware, passed away at the age of 86. He made immeasurable contributions to the volunteer fire service in my home State of Delaware, as well as many of the surrounding States.

Morris King dedicated an amazing 68 years of service to various fire fighting causes during his life. For 35 years, he was a fire line officer in the Hartly Volunteer Fire Company before being elected Chief in 1971. Over the course of his service to the HVFC, Morris held every elected administrative office in the company; he was a man dedicated to protecting all members of his community. Morris oversaw the creation and implementation of the Hartly Fire Company Ambulance Corps, which he captained for many years.

After serving Hartly for so many years, Mr. King went on to hold many leadership positions within the Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association and the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association. For his contributions, Morris was inducted into both the Delaware Firefighters Hall of Fame and the Del-Mar-Va Volunteer Firemen's Hall of Fame. In 1986, Mr. King was honored with the Delaware Fireman of the Year award. He was truly a man who was respected by all who knew him.

While Mr. King was a well-decorated firefighter, his contributions to his country and to local community organizations cannot be overlooked. Morris was a United States Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, serving as a member of the 17th Bomb Group. He also served as president of the Hartly town council.

Morris King's accomplishments are too numerous to name in this tribute. He was a treasure that our State and his family will miss greatly. I know that Morris' dedication to excellence and to public service will serve as an example to his family and friends that he leaves behind.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES
BILLINGTON III

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Charles Billington III on his retirement from the Modesto Irrigation District Board of Directors. He held this position for the past twenty years.

Mr. Billington's commitment and expertise have been an asset to the Board. Since he became involved with the District in 1985, Mr. Billington was instrumental in providing leadership in the development of policies to ensure adequate supplies of water, dependable electric power, organizational efficiency and financial stability.

During his tenure, he played an instrumental role in the planning of the Modesto Regional Water Treatment Plant. This is the largest public works project undertaken in Stanislaus County during the early 1990s. In addition, Mr. Billington was a leader in forming a risk retention group which is now known as the Electric Public Power Insurance Consortium, EPPIC.

Under his leadership, and to the benefit of his constituents, the Modesto Irrigation District has prospered immensely. Charles Billington III has been a part of that important success. I wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

HONORING THE CITY OF THORNTON
AT ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great city in the Second District of Colorado, the City of Thornton—and to congratulate its citizens on the 50th Anniversary of the city's official incorporation. I am proud to represent this community in the United States Congress and to share a little of the history of this remarkable Front Range city. What began as a small development project by a local entrepreneur, Sam Hoffman, in the early 1950s—and supported famously by no less a figure (no pun intended) than Hollywood's Jane Russell, it has become one of the most attractive communities in Colorado.

In the early 1950s, a small development project north of Denver was named after Colorado Governor Dan Thornton and targeted toward soldiers returning from World War II. Sam Hoffman created a small community offering these soldiers and their families the opportunity to purchase a three-bedroom brick house for under \$10,000. From that modest starting point, Thornton has grown into a community of more than 100,000 people, all of whom can be very proud of the great advancements their city has made since its incorporation on May 26, 1956.

The City of Thornton is still growing and attracting new residents. Located just 10 miles

north of Denver, Thornton offers the ideal location for people hoping to experience the vibrancy of city life while still having easy access to skiing, camping, and all of Colorado's other natural wonders. With over 1000 acres dedicated to public parks and a focus on recreation programs, residents can maintain an active lifestyle and still be within driving distance to cultural events in Denver, Boulder, and the larger cities in the area.

Thornton is a perfect example of a small city that has managed tremendous growth in a short period of time. Former Thornton Mayor Margaret Carpenter shepherded the city through its most explosive growth era (the 1980s and 1990s), and today the city boasts premier recreation facilities, a strong business and commercial sector, and a diverse population.

I admire the way that the residents of Thornton have built a strong community with pride and inclusion, and ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the City of Thornton on its 50th anniversary, and I look forward to seeing the city grow for another 50 years.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROSE
NADER

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Rose Nader, who at age 99 died on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 of congestive heart failure. Mrs. Nader was both tender and tenacious. She was a woman who taught her children the importance of service to their community, a love of the environment and concern for the well being of others. As you can see, Mrs. Nader indeed lived an honorable life.

David Halberstam captured her well when he said, "I thought she was a remarkable person who lived a remarkable life, going literally from one century to another."

She was strong, loving, hard-working and modest. All of the virtues were hers. I used to ponder how much she and her husband had seen in their lives for it was a great American story. They had come here in the twenties with little more than their hopes and their capacity for hard work, and in just one generation they had seen their own children prosper—enriching what was around them and being enriched at the same time.

What I will remember is her kindness to our family over the years, her sense of obligation to others, and a belief that citizenship demanded a daily commitment.

And of course her modesty, in the mid-sixties, back when Life Magazine was still powerful, the editors put Ralph on the cover. My mother, thrilled by this, immediately called Rose to tell her.

"Yes," said Mrs. Nader, "that's nice. I must get out and get a copy." We all loved that, the "a copy" reference.

I would also like to include a reprint of an article written by Albert Bernstein that appeared in the Washington Post on January 26, 2006:

Mrs. Nader, who jostled with politicians and complacency as a small-town activist and was the mother of consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

Mrs. Nader developed a certain civic renown in 1955 when she confronted Sen. Prescott Bush (R-Conn.), the father and grandfather of presidents. When Senator Bush visited Winsted, following a catastrophic flood, he was approached by Mrs. Nader at a public gathering. When he offered his hand in an obligatory fashion, Mrs. Nader latched on and refused to free him until he promised to help a dry-dam proposal move forward. This was fulfilled.

Later, she advocated building a community center for children, forming a speakers club that would bring worldly lecturers to the town, and expanding and preserving a local hospital.

At home, she could be implacable, particularly about food. She emphasized homemade items over packaged goods whose contents she found bewildering. She prohibited hot dogs and later beef because of the presence of a growth-stimulating hormone linked to cancer.

She sweetened food with honey, not sugar, and pushed her children to eat chickpeas instead of candy bars on their way to school. When news of this was publicized during Ralph Nader's rise to prominence, the Wall Street Journal editorial page likened his mother to a Puritan.

This characterization was laughed at by her children, even as they promoted the story involving her distrustful relationship with chocolate.

Mrs. Nader later said: "When the children convinced me that chocolate-frosted birthday cakes were what all the other children wanted, I frosted the cake, but after the candles were blown out and before they cut into the cake, I removed the frosting. Some people might say I was severe, but it became a family joke."

She later wrote a cookbook.

Rose Bouziane was born in Zahle, Lebanon, on Feb. 7, 1906, to a sheep broker and a teacher. She taught high school French and Arabic before her marriage in 1925 to businessman Nathra Nader.

After immigrating to the United States, they settled in Connecticut, where his Main Street bakery-restaurant-general store in Winsted, in the northwestern corner of the state, became a redoubt for residents bemoaning actions or inactions at the town hall.

On occasion, Mrs. Nader used newspaper opinion pages to express her views.

Writing in the New York Times in 1982, she denounced the use of "credibility phrases," such as "frankly," "to tell you the truth" and "in all honesty," that sometimes preceded a political statement or sales pitch. They gave her "the pervasive feeling that distrust is so widespread that people need to use such language to be believed."

In another editorial, she embraced mass mailings from issue groups that are commonly dismissed as "junk mail." She wrote that they often come from people "who care about their times."

Her husband died in 1991. A son, Shafeek Nader, died in 1986.

Besides Ralph Nader of Washington, survivors include two daughters, Claire Nader of Washington and Winsted and Laura Nader of Berkeley, Calif.; a sister; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Ralph Nader once said his mother "took us out in the yard one day and asked us if we knew the price of eggs, of apples, of bananas. Then she asked us to put a price on clean air, the sunshine, the song of birds—and we were stunned."

CHINESE ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last spring, China passed the anti-secession law to give Chinese leaders the right to use force against Taiwan if they suspect separatist activities in Taiwan. In addition to the enactment of the antiseccession law, China's rapid military build-up has given the Taiwanese people a sense of dread. China's deploying more than 700 missiles along the southeast coast indicates China still stubbornly clings to a military solution of the Taiwan issue. In response to China's provocative actions, we need to emphasize that military intimidation over Taiwan is no solution to the cross strait relations.

China must learn to respect the aspirations of Taiwan's 23 million people who want to be masters of their own land. China has no right to change the status quo either through the antiseccession law or military intimidation. In the meantime, China must not block Taiwan's attempts in gaining international recognition or in returning to international organizations. Taiwan is a free and democratic nation and deserves to be treated properly and with respect by the international community.

President Chen is a man of peace who does not seek to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. He has reaffirmed his commitment to maintain the status quo on many occasions. In the last 6 years, he has kept his pledges and offered many goodwill gestures to China. His goal of reducing tension between Taiwan and China remains unchanged. Let's hope that China will reciprocate Chen's olive branch by renouncing the use of force against Taiwan and resume dialogue on an equal footing and without preconditions.

RELIEF FOR WORKING FAMILY
VICTIMS OF HURRICANE
KATRINA ACT OF 2006**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, last year the United States laid eyes on one of the greatest natural disasters to ever hit our Nation. Hurricane Katrina ravaged a large part of our country, our economy, and, as a nation, our spirit. Last year Congress committed aid to the victims of this tragedy which the President signed into law. But our work and our commitment to the people of the gulf coast region cannot end there. If we turn our backs on those victims, we will only be subjecting them to another disaster, that of a government which isn't willing to support its own people.

In the months following the hurricane, news and media coverage were filled with photos and video of the effects of abject poverty leaving people in dire straits. Yet today, a short 4 months later, the faces of Katrina have all but disappeared from magazine covers or the nightly news. Make no mistake that the victims are still victims, and the journey back to rebuilding whole communities and lives is a long and difficult road.

To that end, I take pride in introducing, with my esteemed colleagues Congresswoman ROSA DELAUNO, Congressman BILL JEFFERSON, Congressman RAHM EMANUEL, and Congressman CHARLIE MELANCON, the Relief for Working Family Victims of Hurricane Katrina Act of 2006. At present, thousands of families that suffered through the hurricane remain far from their homes and without adequate recourse or resources to help return their lives to normal. Over 900,000 children in the States effected by Hurricane Katrina were ineligible for the refundable child tax credit because their parents earned income level was too low, often by the smallest of margins. Current law restricts the refundable credit to families with income levels over \$11,000, and more if the families have more than one child. This bill would allow working families earning \$10,000 a year, just about minimum wage, to claim the full credit. I am joined in these efforts by my good friend, Senator BARACK OBAMA, who is introducing companion legislation in the Senate today.

Relief like this can carry a family miles down the road to rebuilding their lives. Congress must uphold its commitment to the victims of the hurricane. President Bush, in his State of the Union Address, remarked that, "In New Orleans and in other places, many of our fellow citizens have felt excluded from the promise of our country." It's sad that it took an epic disaster to open America's eyes to the lives of the impoverished and marginalized. The greater tragedy is if we do nothing about it.

SMALL VERMONT SCHOOL WINS
NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN THE
ARTS**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak today about an extraordinary achievement by the teachers, administration and students of a small school in Vermont.

The Robinson Elementary School of Starksboro was one of five schools in the Nation chosen to receive this year's "Creative Ticket National Schools of Distinction Award." The Creative Ticket School Awards provides national recognition "of the role individual schools play in providing a creative learning environment for outstanding student achievement" by recognizing "schools that have developed exemplary arts education programs."

The arts are a vital part of education, by connecting us through words and images and sounds to our past, by connecting us to one another in a vibrant human community, and by helping us to imagine a future where none are isolated or lonely or without hope. The wonderful work done at Robinson Elementary School is testimony that the arts are alive and flourishing—not just in, but especially, in the small towns of Vermont. And most especially, in Starksboro, a town of just under 2,000 residents.

This award is testimony to the inspired teaching which takes place at Robinson Elementary School, where art, drama, music and writing are integrated into the school curriculum. In particular, let me single out Vera Ryersbach, the art teacher at Robinson Elementary.

And of course I want to single out the students, for schools exist for their students, and the success of any program is measured by how hard and eagerly students pursue their studies. Twenty-five of the students at the 142-student school will be going to the Kennedy Center to perform on the Millennium Stage this coming March. But before that, there will be a community dance celebration in Starksboro, so all the students and community members can share in this great achievement.

Congratulations, too, to Robinson's principal Dan Noël, and to the supporting group for this endeavor, the Vermont Alliance for Arts Education and Anne Tyler, VAAE's executive director, and Elizabeth Miller, VAAE chair.

THANKING DAN HORNAK FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in February 2006, I rise to thank Mr. Dan Hornak for 20 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Prior to his arrival in Washington, Dan graduated from Western Michigan University, taught elementary school, worked as a sheriff's deputy in Michigan, and was a television news cameraman. He joined the House Recording Studio staff in 1986 as a camera operator. Through the years he built a reputation as a team player dedicated to serving the Members of the House. He rose to the position of television director and enjoyed its challenges.

Dan has used his creativity to improve the Members' awareness of the Recording Studio services. His resourcefulness for completing special studio projects has become legendary. He has said that the greatest perk of his job has been working in the Capitol, learning its history and sharing it with others. Dan has made a point of knowing as many people working in the Capitol and in the House office buildings as possible, and he considers each of them to be his friend.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Dan for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF ST.
BARNABAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN
CHICAGO**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor: Sarah Bush, Laura Carroll, Eileen Cullina, Sara Kochanny, Meghan McArdle, Alexandra Nine, Jessica Perazzolo, and Patrick Vogt, all students of St. Barnabas Catholic School in Chicago. These students, competing against students from sixteen other schools, placed first in the Chicago Region of the National Engineers Week Future City Competition. They will compete at the national level in Washington, DC from February 18–22.

The National Engineers Future City Competition is a competition sponsored by Engineers Week, a consortium of major U.S. corporations, professional, and technical societies. The consortium is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated engineering work force by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers, as well as promoting precollege literacy in math and science.

The competition encourages 7th and 8th grade students to use problem solving skills, team-work, research and presentation skills, practical math and science applications, and computer skills to present their vision of a city of the future. St. Barnabas Catholic School, an elementary school stressing hands on learning, has participated in the National Engineers Week Future City Competition for the last 7 years. Previous St. Barnabas teams have won the Chicago regional competition 3 times, the national championship in 2001, and finished fifth in 2004. The team's current advisors include engineer mentor Timothy Cullina and teacher mentor Jeanne Conway.

As a member of the House Science Committee and one of only 11 Members of Congress with an engineering degree, I am especially proud to recognize these young engineers. Their interest in and commitment to math and science education is admirable and will help our country remain a global leader in science and engineering.

It is my honor to recognize these students and their mentors for these outstanding achievements. Additionally, I commend St. Barnabas Catholic School for promoting the sound leaning atmosphere necessary to foster academic success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF MERCI

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Merci on its 50th anniversary. Dedicated to serving the developmentally disabled members of our community, Merci has helped countless people make significant strides toward reaching their goals and achieving fulfilling lives.

Merci has its roots working with developmentally disabled children. In 1955, the Monterey Park Exchange Club determined that there was a need for a school dedicated to developmentally disabled children, and Merci was formed. Merci was incorporated as a non-profit in 1959, and the early years were devoted to working primarily with children. In 1967, Merci was authorized by the Regional Centers of California to serve all people diagnosed with developmental disabilities. As the educational landscape changed over time, it became one of Merci's central aims to prepare developmentally disabled children for enrollment in public school special education classes; to this end, Merci added a program geared especially toward preschoolers. Merci continued to grow and thrive, and the organization expanded to include a Work Activity Center for adolescents and young adults. After a series of laws regarding handicapped children and public education passed in the 1970s, Merci's

focus in 1976 shifted to working with its older clients. To this day Merci continues to provide unsurpassed service to its clients.

In keeping with its outstanding tradition of helping others, in the past few years Merci started two new programs that allow the organization to serve an even greater number of clients. As a part of one of the programs, Merci staff travel to the homes of clients with special medical needs and work with them on an individual basis. Merci has also opened its first group home, Ernie's Place, which offers 24-hour supervised care for its clients.

The Merci staff's commitment and dedication to serving the developmentally disabled members of our community is to be commended. Without Merci, many people would not be living the quality lives that they are living today.

I am proud to congratulate Merci on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring Merci and the Merci staff for their dedication to making our community a better place in which to live.

HONORING HARRY LESTER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man that is a giant in the United Steelworkers of America, Harry Lester. Harry is retiring from the United Steelworkers on February 10 and will be honored at a dinner that evening. With his retirement working men and women are losing a remarkable advocate.

Harry's association with the labor movement began when as a child, he witnessed the tragic death of his father in a coal mining accident in West Virginia. Thus began a lifelong commitment to social justice. Relocating to Michigan, Harry went to work for McLouth Steel Corporation and became a member of the United Steelworkers in 1954.

Working with his local, Local 2659, Harry was elected shop steward that same year. He rose through the ranks of the union and was sworn in as the District 2 Director in 1981. He has been re-elected director ever since. Harry has earned the reputation of a tough and fair negotiator. He negotiated the workplace safety and health language that was later handed down in a Supreme Court decision as the standard for all workers. Twice he has worked to keep McLouth Steel Corporation in operation, first in 1982 and the second time in 1987. At that time his ingenuity saved the company by putting together an employee buyout. The employees owned 87 percent of the company and created, for that time, the largest Employee Stock Ownership Plan in this country.

Simultaneously, as he was working to save McLouth Steel Corporation, Harry was working with the negotiating team for National Steel Corporation. He helped craft the Cooperative Partnership Agreement that gave the company's employees a say in the decisionmaking process. His efforts on behalf of the membership advanced worker input and saved their employers millions of dollars. In 1993 he was appointed chair of the United Steelworkers of America National Steel Negotiating Committee.

Harry's commitment to social justice extends beyond the workplace. He is active with numerous organizations including the Metropolitan AFL-CIO, the Michigan State AFL-CIO, United Foundation, United Way of Michigan, National Kidney Foundation, Economic Alliance of Michigan, Blue Care Network, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Parks Authority, Citizens Advisory Committee of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Greater Detroit Area Health Council, Michigan Economic and Environmental Roundtable and is the founder of the Annual Downriver Community Prayer Breakfast. Harry serves on the Salvation Army Board of Directors and with his wife, Mary, is a bell ringer every Christmas.

As District 2 Director, Harry believed it is essential for local union leaders to be as skilled and as educated as their company counterparts. He developed training classes and encouraged lifelong learning. In this he led by example. Harry has taken every Labor Studies class offered by the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Michigan State University. In May 2005 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree by Michigan State University and actively works with the school's Labor Education Program on curriculum development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in expressing admiration for a man that has devoted his entire life to the betterment of those around him. Through his foresight every worker in this country has benefited. I, and other Members of this body, have long sought his guidance and I have welcomed his wisdom. I wish to thank Harry Lester for his service and wish him the best as he retires from the United Steelworkers of America.

IN HONOR OF THE CATHEDRAL
CHOIR SCHOOL OF DELAWARE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Cathedral Choir School of Delaware, who on January 25, 2006, had the honor of singing for First Lady Laura Bush at the White House. The Cathedral Choir School of Delaware was honored as one of the 17 youth arts and humanities programs that will receive the 2005 Coming Up Taller Award from the First Lady. The Choir performed two songs, the National Anthem and a Zulu anthem.

This Award was created by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, and its recipients are chosen by members of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Cathedral Choir School of Delaware was selected from a group of over 250 well-qualified nominees.

Led by Choirmaster and Artistic Director Dr. Darryl Roland, this wonderful ensemble boasts 53 area students whose ages range from as young as 7, to as old as 17. The main objective of the choral arts program is to help these young people, many of them disadvantaged, succeed in school and other extracurricular endeavors. While singing is the central activity, it is only one of the important skills that they take away from this program.

The Cathedral Choir School of Delaware boasts an impressive list of alumni, many having been elected to leadership positions at their academic institutions and in their communities. The former Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court is an example of a distinguished alumnus from the group.

I congratulate and thank the Cathedral Choir School of Delaware for their contributions to the State of Delaware and to our country. Many children who have participated in the program as well as music lovers owe the group a sincere debt of gratitude, and I am pleased to be able to vocalize their appreciation. I am thrilled that a group from my home State has been honored with such an illustrious award and I wish them many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DONALD FOX

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Donald Fox on his retirement from the National Park Service. Mr. Fox retired as a career appointee in the position of Landscape Architect and Pacific West Region, PWR, accessibility coordinator for the National Park Service.

Mr. Donald Fox's expertise in landscape architecture and accessibility compliance in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, AGA, Accessibility Guidelines enabled his success as landscape architect and Pacific West Region, PWR, accessibility coordinator. His service to the Department of the Interior began in 1965 with his first temporary appointment and culminated in his permanent career appointment in January of 1971. Additionally, Mr. Fox served his country faithfully as a dedicated member of the United States Army before beginning his career with the National Park Service.

Mr. Fox worked for over 38 years in the National Park Service and had a long and distinguished career that was mostly spent in the service of preserving one of our country's most dramatic and beautiful National Parks. His efforts to make Yosemite accessible to all will be appreciated for decades to come by those who visit this great American landmark.

RECOGNIZING DAVID J. SHENK UPON BEING NAMED TOWN OF BOSTON "DEMOCRAT OF THE YEAR"

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to recognize David J. Shenk, a man who is being recognized as town of Boston 2006 "Democrat of the Year" for his selfless dedication to his community and his country.

Mr. Shenk currently serves as the Boston town clerk, a position he first won by just three votes in 1991, at the young age of 21.

For the last 14 years Mr. Shenk has served his community well, securing 14 records man-

agement grants, streamlining efficiencies in town government, and establishing a foundation which provides grants to local nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Shenk's allegiance to his hometown is only rivaled by his commitment to this great Nation. Enlisted in the United States Army Reserve in 1988, he has served in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. A health care specialist in the 1982nd Forward Surgical Team, his decorations include three Army Achievement Medals and an Army Commendation Medal.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize David Shenk, a man I am proud to have as a colleague in Western New York government, a friend and a public servant deserving of the title "Democrat of the Year."

IN MEMORY OF FORT WORTH POLICE OFFICER HENRY "HANK" NAVA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous police officer from my district who was slain on December 1, 2005. Fort Worth Police Officer Henry "Hank" Nava died from a gunshot wound to the head that he received on November 29 while searching for a man who was wanted by police. His loving family and many of his fellow officers were at his side when he died.

Officer Nava was a remarkable officer of the peace who was admired both by fellow officers and citizens of Fort Worth. Officer Nava, a native of central Texas, began his career in law enforcement in 1988 as an Austin, TX, park police officer. He became a Fort Worth police officer in 1992 and in the ensuing 13 years worked tirelessly to protect the citizens of Fort Worth. Officer Nava worked for the Plano, TX, police department for a brief period in 1999 but soon returned because he missed Fort Worth.

During his career, Officer Nava served as a Fort Worth patrol officer, a neighborhood patrol officer, a school resource officer and, for the last 2½ years of his career, as a member of the North Division Crime Response Team. Officer Nava quickly earned the reputation of a hard working officer who always had a smile and the officer who wore the Oakley sunglasses. Often, after his shift ended, Officer Nava would take one more call for help. He mentored young people through the Police Department Explorer Scout program. His desire to help others was exemplified when he and several members of the Fort Worth Police Department traveled to New Orleans to deliver relief supplies to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Officer Nava was devoted to his wife, Teresa, and his children Kayleigh, 9, and Justin, 4. He was an outstanding and loving husband as well as a friend to Teresa. Because of his love for his wife, he always took time from his work to be with her whether it was on their yearly cruise or a call home. His last call to Teresa came just minutes before he entered the home where he was fatally shot. His children were the joy of his life. He showered them with his love and attention, as only a

proud father can do. Whether it was having fun around the family backyard pool or participating in an activity, Officer Nava always made certain his children had his full attention and that the moment was special for them.

Officer Nava's commitment to law enforcement, his deep love for his family and his pride in Fort Worth made him an outstanding Fort Worth police officer and citizen. I am proud to honor Officer Henry "Hank" Nava for his services to Fort Worth and its citizens. He will not be forgotten.

HONORING THE LATE HUGH THOMPSON, JR.

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a man who will long be remembered for devotion to his country, his community, and his family. Hugh Thompson, Jr. of Lafayette, Louisiana, passed away after a brief illness on January 6, 2006, at the age of 62.

Born in Atlanta, Hugh joined the Navy in 1961 and left 3 years later. He continued his military service in 1966 by joining the Army and becoming a helicopter pilot. Upon completion of training, Thompson was deployed to serve in Vietnam. In 1968, he volunteered for duty that involved flying over Vietnamese forests to draw enemy fire and pinpoint the location of enemy troops.

It was on March 16, 1968, that Thompson and his crew; door-gunner Lawrence Colburn and crew chief Glenn Andreotta, came upon U.S. ground troops opening fire on Vietnamese civilians in and around the village of My Lai. After Thompson landed his helicopter in the line of fire between American troops and fleeing Vietnamese civilians, Colburn and Andreotta provided cover as he went forward to confront the leader of the U.S. forces. Thompson later coaxed civilians out of a bunker so they could be evacuated, and then landed his helicopter again to pick up a wounded child they transported to a hospital. Thompson would later say: "These people were looking at me for help and there was no way I could turn my back on them."

By the end of his tour of duty, Hugh Thompson had been hit eight times by enemy fire and lost five helicopters in combat. He left Vietnam after a combat crash broke his back, and was awarded both a Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In 1998, the Army honored Thompson and his crew for their bravery at My Lai with the prestigious Soldier's Medal, the highest award for bravery not involving conflict with an enemy. "It was the ability to do the right thing even at the risk of their personal safety that guided these soldiers to do what they did," Army Maj. Gen. Michael Ackerman said at the 1998 ceremony. The three "set the standard for all soldiers to follow."

Following his service in the military, Hugh was a devoted servant in Lafayette as a Veteran's Service Officer with the Louisiana Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has lost a true hero, and the State of Louisiana has lost a devoted leader and dear friend. I want convey my heartfelt sympathy to the Thompson

family. We are all humbly indebted to Hugh's service, and a grateful Nation honors his memory.

RECOGNIZING NAVAL HOSPITAL
PENSACOLA FOR BEING A TOP
PROVIDER OF PATIENT SATIS-
FACTION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Naval Hospital Pensacola in my district for being named the best mid-sized Department of Defense hospital in the nation for patient satisfaction.

Last month, the 2006 annual TRICARE conference focused on Department of Defense health facilities that excel in providing healthcare to active service members, retirees, and their families, and I am proud to know that those who so bravely serve our country can come to Northwest Florida for quality healthcare.

I also want to commend Naval Hospital Pensacola's Commanding Officer, Captain Matt Nathan, for leading the hospital over the last 2 years and ensuring that his staff deliver the best services possible to those in need. This award reflects as much on the staff that oversee the day-to-day operation of the hospital, including patient care and follow-up. Naval Hospital Pensacola has long been a top provider of customer satisfaction because of this outstanding staff, and I am proud to see them along with Captain Nathan take the hospital to the number one spot.

I am confident that all of those who work at Naval Hospital Pensacola will continue to strive toward the best healthcare for our active and retired service members and their families well into the future. It is this kind of health care that should serve as a model for how we should take care of those who dedicate their lives toward the freedom of this great Nation and the rest of the world.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Naval Hospital Pensacola as being the top medium-sized Department of Defense hospital in our Nation, and I wish them great success down the road.

HONORING PROVENA ST. JOSEPH
MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Provena St. Joseph Medical Center as they receive the "Salute To Accomplishment" award from the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Provena St. Joseph Medical Center is located in Joliet, Illinois and serves my 11th District Congressional constituents.

Provena St. Joseph Medical Center was founded in 1882 and is located in downtown Joliet. In 1964, the hospital moved to its

present location at 333 North Madison Street on Joliet's west side. Today, the Medical Center has a medical staff of more than 400 physicians representing over 50 medical specialties and employs over 2,200 professional, technical and support personnel.

Provena St. Joseph Medical Center has received numerous accreditations including the following departments: Ultrasound Department, Neurology Lab, Vascular Lab, Cancer Care Center, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Unit, Pulmonary Rehabilitation, and the CT Scan Facility. Jeff Brickman, President and CEO of Provena St. Joseph Medical Center, has stated that, "At Provena St. Joseph Medical Center we strive to provide the community with the highest quality of patient care every day." The many awards and accreditations received by Provena St. Joseph are a testimony to the truth of this statement.

Provena St. Joseph Medical Center is affiliated with the Provena Family Health Centers located in Coal City, New Lenox and Plainfield. The Medical Center is a division of Provena Health which has a history of providing health care to everyone regardless of their ability to pay for services. The heart of their mission is to "build communities of healing and hope." Provena St. Joseph Medical Center truly lives up to the standards of its founding fathers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other facilities in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's families and communities.

THANKING HELGA BROWN FOR
HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in February 2006, I rise to thank Ms. Helga Brown for 23 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

A native of Bad Reichenhall, Germany, Helga has served this great institution in mail processing, sales clerk, and payment processing positions within the offices of the Doorkeeper, Clerk, and the Chief Administrative Officer. She began her career at the House on February 24, 1983 in the Folding Room, where she assisted House offices with the preparation and packaging of mail. In 1988, after 5 years of hard work in the Folding Room, she transferred to the Office Supply store, where she started as a sales clerk. Helga's knowledge, enthusiasm and friendliness endeared her to her customers and co-workers. She always went the extra mile to assist House staffers and Office Supply Store visitors with their purchases or questions. Helga moved from the Office Supply sales floor to the payment processing department, where she quickly learned the new MCBA and FFS payment processing software. She proved to be an excellent worker in this area too, doing everything necessary to provide swift and correct payments to supply vendors. In addition to making prompt and accurate payments, Helga also assisted with the reconciliation of cash sales.

After 10 years in Office Supply, Helga briefly served as receptionist at Office Systems Management within House Support Services, again providing superior service to the House community. Her outstanding work prompted Office Supply to seek her out again, and she returned there to process payments. The Vendor Management department of House Support Services also recognized her abilities, and she finally transferred permanently there on August 1, 1999. Even years after her transition from the sales floor to the accounts payable section of Office Supply and Vendor Management, customers remembered how well she had helped them in the past, and would often seek her out for guidance, or just for a friendly chat. She has managed the processing of the majority of the countless payments for office supplies ordered by House Offices through Vendor Management. She painstakingly researched delivery documentation and invoices in order to ensure accuracy and swiftness of payments. Always a cheerful volunteer for special projects, Helga eagerly went above and beyond the call of duty. One of these special projects was a temporary detail back to her old position in Office Supply to assist with daily deposits and accounts. Her standard of excellence, dedication, professionalism, and pleasant disposition have earned her the admiration and respect of all of her customers and coworkers.

Helga will be greatly missed by the many friends and acquaintances that she has made throughout the entire House community over the years. We thank her for a job well done, and we wish her many happy years of retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOM-
PLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA
SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, just one day before the start of Black History Month, we lost one of our Nation's most important civil rights pioneers—Coretta Scott King. Black History Month is an appropriate opportunity to mourn her death, celebrate her extraordinary life, and reflect on the extraordinary partnership of Mrs. King and her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Although Dr. King was the heart and face of the civil rights movement, Mrs. King was its backbone. She marched alongside her husband in Selma to demand voting rights for African Americans. She marched with him again in Washington to demand a Federal law protecting the civil rights of all Americans. And she marched with her husband in Memphis one day before he was killed, to provide relief for the sanitation workers facing entrenched discrimination.

After Dr. King's murder in 1968, Coretta Scott King fought with enormous grace and determination to keep her husband's legacy alive. She founded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change to further his dream of racial equality, and fought tirelessly to establish a national holiday to honor her late husband. Although it took her 15

years to accomplish this goal, Congress finally enacted a law in 1983 designating the third Monday of January as Dr. Martin Luther King Day.

Since her husband's death 38 years ago, Mrs. King continued her work as a civil rights activist, an advocate for women's rights, and a leader in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. She fought for the ideals that made this country great, and became the epitome of American strength and perseverance during a difficult struggle for civil rights.

In the spirit of Coretta Scott King, let us rededicate ourselves to give all Americans the opportunity and justice they need to meet the challenges of today. Through perseverance and a deep belief in God and humanity, we can go a long way to achieving a more perfect America.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PHONE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the "Law Enforcement and Phone Privacy Protection Act of 2006."

This bipartisan legislation provides new, explicit, and strengthened protections for the privacy of confidential telephone records, including calling logs. It establishes specific criminal penalties for the fraudulent acquisition or disclosure of these records without consumer consent.

Few things are more personal and potentially more revealing than our phone records. The records of whom we choose to call and how long we speak with them can reveal much about our business and personal lives. A careful study of these records may reveal details of our medical or financial life. It may even disclose our physical location.

To avoid unwanted invasions of their personal privacy, millions of Americans already voluntarily list their phone numbers in the "National Do-Not-Call" registry. Many Americans also keep their telephone number unlisted.

Currently, Federal law recognizes the right of Americans to maintain this kind of privacy by providing some limited protections for the confidential information contained in calling logs. Phone companies and others who have a legitimate interest in having this information may not release it without either consumer consent or a determination that certain narrowly prescribed conditions exist.

Unfortunately, recent investigations by law enforcement authorities, including the Chicago Police Department and the FBI, and numerous media reports have shattered the notion that this data is safe.

These reports demonstrate that current Federal statutes are woefully inadequate to protect these records. They reveal that numerous companies and individuals offer to sell confidential phone records information to virtually anyone with no questions asked.

The price for selling this sensitive private information is shocking. It averages about \$100. Essentially, these companies sell the confidential personal information of American citizens as a commodity. Many of these companies have operated on the Internet under a variety

of names. There may be several thousand additional companies or individuals across the U.S. who traffic in these records but who do not conduct business openly on the Internet.

Alarmed at the easy access to these records, the Chicago Police Department and the FBI have reportedly warned their personnel to take steps to safeguard their phone numbers. The potential danger to undercover operatives concerns law enforcement officials.

In recent weeks, several States have taken civil enforcement action against these kinds of companies filing suits that allege violations of various State unfair and deceptive trade practices statutes. In these suits, the evidence shows that these companies typically use a variety of fraudulent devices to obtain these records from employees of phone companies. The most common method is referred to as "pretexting." A pretexter calls the phone company and poses as someone who is authorized to receive the information lawfully—perhaps the actual phone customer or another employee of the target phone company. I certainly agree this conduct is an unfair and deceptive practice. I applaud the state and federal officials who are investigating and civilly pursuing these companies.

However, I believe civil enforcement alone is not enough. New federal criminal penalties are needed to deter and punish these dishonest individuals and businesses—and to put them out of business permanently. The "Law Enforcement and Phone Privacy Protection Act of 2006" imposes serious criminal penalties—up to 20 years in prison—for anyone who knowingly and intentionally obtains or attempts to obtain the confidential phone records of a telephone company using a fraudulent scheme or device.

The bill further imposes up to 5 years imprisonment on anyone who:

First, either sells, transfers, or attempts to sell or transfer such records without authorization; or

Second, purchases such records knowing they were obtained without authorization.

Most importantly, the bill provides enhanced criminal penalties for anyone who: (1) engages in large-scale operations to violate the law; or (2) discloses or uses such fraudulently obtained information in furtherance of various crimes of violence or intimidation. This latter provision ensures that the bill targets the worst offenders.

The release of sensitive information like a phone record to an unauthorized individual can compromise a person's safety. Consider the tragic case of Amy Boyer, a young woman who was murdered in 1999.

In Ms. Boyer's case, the murderer hired Docusearch.com to conduct a search and identify Amy's Social Security Number and place of employment. Docusearch hired a subcontractor, who posed as an employee of Ms. Boyer's insurance company, called Amy, and confirmed her place of employment. Shortly thereafter, the killer drove to her workplace and gunned her down as she was leaving. For its service, Docusearch charged her murderer \$109.

The unauthorized trade in this information not only assaults individual privacy but, in the wrong hands, can lead to violence and in the most extreme instances, even death. We must act to deter these acts by providing that anyone who seeks to wrongfully acquire or disclose these records faces serious criminal consequences.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the other cosponsors in supporting this bill. It is urgently needed to preserve consumer's privacy rights and to protect the personal safety of law enforcement personnel and victims of domestic violence. Enactment of this bill will send a clear and emphatic signal that these breaches of privacy will no longer be tolerated. I look forward to the House passing this legislation without delay.

PROMOTING PEACE AND STABILITY THROUGH THE REPEAL OF THE ANTISECESSION LAW

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, last spring, China passed the anti-secession law to give Chinese leaders the right to use force against Taiwan if they suspect separatist activities in Taiwan. In addition to the enactment of the anti-secession law, China's rapid military build-up has given the Taiwanese people a sense of fear. China's deployment of more than 700 missiles along the southeast coast indicates that China still stubbornly clings to a military solution of the Taiwan issue. In response to China's provocative actions, we need to emphasize that military intimidation over Taiwan is not a solution to the cross strait relations.

China must respect the aspirations of Taiwan's 23 million people who want the freedom to determine their own future. China has no justification to change the status quo either through the anti-secession law or military intimidation. Last spring, the House of Representatives went on record in expressing our grave concern over China's anti-secession law by passing H. Con. Res. 98 authored by Chairman HYDE in a vote of 424-4. I was proud to vote for this legislation, and I commend my fellow colleagues for the overwhelming decisive nature of the vote in demonstrating the House's sincere interest in preserving peace in the Taiwan Straits through the ending of the anti-secession law.

In other important issues, China must not block Taiwan's attempts to gain international recognition or return to international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Taiwan is a free and democratic nation and deserves to be treated properly and with respect by the international community. Taiwan's exclusion from the United Nations has deprived the identity of 23 million people.

President Chen is a man of peace and he has reaffirmed his commitment to maintain the status quo on many occasions. In the last six years, he has kept his pledges and offered many goodwill gestures to China. His goal of reducing tension between Taiwan and China remains unchanged. Let us hope that China will reciprocate Chen's olive branch by renouncing the use of force against Taiwan and resuming dialogue on an equal footing and without pre-conditions.

ELIMINATE WAREHOUSING OF
CONSUMER INTERNET DATA ACT
OF 2006

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Eliminate Warehousing of Consumer Internet Data Act of 2006. This act is designed to ensure that personal information about consumers and their use of the Internet that is no longer necessary for any legitimate business purpose is destroyed. The warehousing of personal information about consumers' Internet use, data which often indicate nonpublic details of their lives, should not be stored needlessly awaiting compromise by data thieves or fraudsters or disclosure through judicial fishing expeditions.

Mr. Speaker, as America's telecommunications networks continue to grow and broadband digital technologies become ever more prevalent, individuals and industries will increasingly use such networks to communicate and conduct commercial transactions. The ease of gathering and compiling personal information during such communications, both overtly and surreptitiously, is highly efficient due to advances in digital telecommunications technology and the widespread use of the Internet.

As such information is gathered and gleaned from consumers, it is important to acknowledge that consumers have an ownership interest in their personal information. Information gathered about consumers over the Internet can provide detail about some of the most intimate aspects of an individual's life, including their surfing interests, communications with other citizens, purchases, information inquiries, and political or religious interests, affiliations, or speech. Certain information from Internet searches or website visits conducted from a particular computer can be obtained and stored by websites or search engines, and can be traced back to individual computer users. Some Internet search engines, for example, today can collect information about a consumer's search request, the Internet protocol address, the consumer's browser type and browser language, the date and time of the request, as well as information regarding cookies that may uniquely identify the consumer's browser.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that in order to safeguard consumer privacy interests, companies that gather personal information that can identify individual consumers should cease to store such information after it is no longer necessary to render service to such consumers or to conduct any legitimate business practice. This is an obligation that cable operators today discharge. A cable operator, which can gather personal information about a subscriber's use of the cable system and obtain information about a consumer's video programming choices and use of their cable modem are currently required under section 631 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. 551, to destroy any personal information gathered from a subscriber after it is no longer necessary for the purpose for which it was gathered and if there are no other pending legal requests for such information.

This legislation is designed to extend to consumers similar protection. It does so for

websites and Internet search engines who arguably possess information about computer users which is more detailed and more personalized, than information cable operators typically gather. It does however permit such entities to utilize such data to render service to consumers in a way which does not inhibit their ability to innovate and only requires that once the entity no longer has a legitimate reason to warehouse such information to destroy it within a reasonable period of time.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this and other consumer privacy issues this year and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL BLACK
HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. AIDS doesn't discriminate. It affects every race, age and gender but HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among African Americans ages 25–44. It has become a state of emergency.

In the United States, over 400,000 people were living with AIDS at the end of 2003 and African Americans accounted for half of these AIDS cases. The Center for Disease Control suggests that African Americans tend to be diagnosed later in life and at a more advanced stage. This explains why more blacks die sooner from AIDS related complications than any other group in the U.S.

African American women are hit the hardest. Rates of HIV/AIDS diagnosis in African American women are almost 20 times higher than white women and 5 times higher than those of Hispanic women. African American men are diagnosed at a rate of almost 7 times higher than those of white men.

Unfortunately it doesn't appear that the future is much brighter. Today, people under the age of 25 account for half of all new HIV infections each year. Within that group, African Americans account for 56 percent of new infections. No matter what age group one focuses on, blacks are most impacted.

The President mentioned the AIDS epidemic in his State of the Union and the Federal Government must stay active in not just funding research initiatives but also in education and improving the lives of those in poverty. Nearly 1 in 4 African Americans lives in poverty. There is an association between higher AIDS cases and lower income. The socioeconomic problems associated with poverty, including limited access to high-quality health care and HIV prevention education, directly or indirectly increase HIV risk. If we can decrease poverty we can decrease the amount of African Americans with HIV/AIDS.

The Nation must take ownership and reinvigorate the response to the crisis within the African American communities and beyond. There must be a partnership between local community organizations with Federal and state agencies. Together we can combat and defeat this disease.

CONGRATULATING MARTIN D. POPKY ON THE OCCASION OF BEING HONORED BY THE SELIGMAN J. STRAUSS LODGE OF B'NAI B'RITH HOUSING FOUNDATION, INC.

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Martin D. Popky, of Kingston, Pennsylvania, who is being honored for his many years of service to the Seligman J. Strauss Lodge of B'nai B'rith Housing Foundation.

Mr. Popky has served as president of the Foundation for 35 years since the establishment of the B'nai B'rith Apartment complex in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He is also a member of the national board that operates 36 B'nai B'rith senior citizen housing projects in six countries.

The owner of a successful independent insurance agency, Mr. Popky recently celebrated 50 years with CNA Insurance Company during which time he was a high performance agent.

A member of the Masonic Lodge, Mr. Popky is also a member of the Irem Temple where he formed the Stewards Unit, serving as chief steward for more than 20 years.

A life member of Temple Israel and a member of Ohav Zedek Synagogue, Mr. Popky also served as secretary and a member of the board of directors of the Jewish Community Center. He was also a three term chairman of the United Hebrew Institute School Board and chairman of its board of trustees.

In 1993, Mr. Popky received the highest honor of the United Hebrew Institute when he received its Shofar Award.

An active volunteer in many civic activities, Mr. Popky founded the American Blind Bowlers Association; served as treasurer of GRIT; was the owner and operator of Washington Square Apartments and was treasurer of the Interfaith Council of Wyoming Valley.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Popky on this special occasion. His commitment to community improvement has had a positive effect on the quality of life in the greater Wyoming Valley and, by his example and hard work, he has demonstrated what it means to be a true leader.

SALUTE TO BARBARA BOWES

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we begin this Second Session of the 109th Congress, I'd like to salute a constituent of mine, Barbara Bowes of Houston, Texas, who served as Jack Fields' district coordinator for the entire 16 years that Jack represented Texas' 8th Congressional District.

Barbara served her community not only as Jack's district coordinator but worked in our Houston district office. More important, she is a personal friend and someone I have come to admire over the last several decades.

Throughout the years she served Jack and me on behalf of the men and women of the North Channel area of Houston, Texas, I admired Barbara for her commitment to public service. When Jack represented the North Channel area in Congress in the early 1980s, and I represented the same area in the Texas State Senate, Barbara was the "go to" person in Jack's district office—the one we all contacted for requests, appointments and information. As Jack's district coordinator, Barbara was the best at what she did—keeping the Congressman and his staff on schedule and serving his constituents, often satisfying impossible requests.

But Barbara did far more as Jack's district coordinator.

Barbara served as a "mother" for the 8th Congressional District of Texas. She served as a "mother" to Jack's congressional staffs both in Houston and Washington, DC—offering support and good humor to everyone who served him. I don't think Barbara would object if I suggested that much of that good humor was somewhat ribald or slightly earthy.

Barbara continues to wage a courageous battle against melanoma, and in characteristic fashion, often uses humor to comfort everyone from her doctors to her family. Jack and I continue to marvel at her strength and endurance—as do her many friends, her family members and the staff at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Over the last 25 years, Barbara has provided all of us with a shining example of public service and a lesson in how service should be delivered. She never sought recognition for her work, but she earned the admiration of all who were privileged to work alongside her and those she helped through the years. I would ask that you and all of my colleagues remember Barbara in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, if not a Texas native, Barbara certainly is a Texas original—a Long Island native who found her home in Houston, Texas, and who served her community and her fellow citizens with dedication and distinction. Texans have always welcomed such men and women to our state and offered them our love and respect. Texas and our Nation are better as a result of Barbara's service, and I appreciate this opportunity to recognize this unique Texas woman.

TRIBUTE TO SEYMORE SAILES

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Seymore Sailes, a lifelong resident of Manatee County whose sudden passing last week is a tremendous loss to the Palmetto community.

Mr. Sailes was the first African American insurance agent to work in a white-owned agency in the State of Florida. He went on to open his own insurance and bail bonding business, which is now a fixture in the Palmetto community.

However, to the people of Palmetto, Mr. Sailes is better known for his work outside the office. Seymore dedicated his life to bettering his community and improving opportunities for young people. Where there was a need,

Seymore was hard at work, determined to meet that need.

Nowhere is the fruit of his tireless labor more evident than at the Palmetto Youth Center, where Mr. Sailes mentored kids and coached football. Seymore was always convincing local business leaders to support the center's young people by sponsoring events, financing educational scholarships or supporting the center's infrastructure expansion. Thanks to Mr. Sailes and his leadership, Palmetto Youth Center has been able to reach many more young people with a variety of programs and activities, as well as connecting with the entire community through the center's annual Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., banquet and parade.

Outside of the Palmetto Youth Center, Seymore was also active in his church, serving as the chairman of the deacon board at St. John's First Baptist Institutional Church. His many civic activities and his determination in bringing people together to improve the community earned Mr. Sailes numerous awards, as well as the respect and appreciation of the Palmetto community.

Seymore's passing leaves a void in our community's leadership, as well as in our hearts. I would like to extend my appreciation to Mr. Sailes for his service and my deepest sympathy to his family for their loss.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF HARRY LESTER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend Harry Lester on the occasion of his retirement from the United Steel Workers of America, USWA. Harry and I have fought and won many battles together over the past 50 years on behalf of working men and women. He is an honorable, decent, and hard-working man and I am proud to call him my friend.

As Director of District 2, representing steel workers in Michigan and Wisconsin since its establishment in 1995, Harry has shown commendable leadership and commitment to the community and to our nation's working families. Harry first became active in the Steel Workers at Local 2659 at McLouth Steel in Trenton, Michigan in 1954. In 1969, he was appointed to USWA staff where he later negotiated one of the first cooperative partnerships in the country between Dow Chemical, National Standard, Quanex, and the Detroit Steel Company. Harry was promoted to serve as the director of USWA District 29 from 1981 to 1995 before ascending to the position of Director of the newly formed District 2.

Harry has been very active in the local community throughout his career and currently serves on the board of several education, labor, political and civic organizations. His activities include participation in organizations such as the AFL-CIO, United Foundation, United Way of Michigan, National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, Economic Alliance of Michigan, Greater Detroit Area Health Council and the Michigan Economic and Environmental Roundtable. Harry has proven to be an effective leader in efforts to protect our envi-

ronment and protecting the rights of working men and women across America.

As Harry enters his retirement years, I would like to extend my best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable journey. I would like to thank him for all of his hard work and dedication to the United Steel Workers of America and to labor efforts over the years. His commitment to improving the quality of life for working families has been an inspiration to me and to everyone that he has touched in his many years of service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Harry Lester for his many years of dedicated public service on behalf of both the United Steel Workers of America and the community at large. His heartfelt dedication to the workers of this Nation will not be forgotten.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S FY2007 BUDGET

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the priorities set forth in the President's Budget which hides the true costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, finances tax cuts on the backs of the poor, slashes Medicare and Medicaid, and favors special interests over the interests of the American people.

Before the State of the Union address, I along with several other Members of Congress, sent President Bush a letter asking him to make sure that he tells the American people the truth. During the State of Union, President Bush said that his budget would cut the deficit in half by 2009. Unfortunately, it seems that the President did not read our letter.

The President's budget is misleading in the projected costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 2001, approximately \$370 billion has been provided to finance the wars and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than \$260 billion of that amount has been funneled into Iraq. In his budget, the President has set aside \$50 billion in 2007 for Iraq and Afghanistan, but has not allotted any money beyond 2007. While I welcome a swift end to the war in Iraq, the assumption that this country will not spend a dime in Iraq and Afghanistan beyond 2007 is farfetched.

The President's budget is misleading in not including the 10 year costs of repairing the Alternative Minimum Tax. While the President has included a 1-year provision to mitigate the AMT's impact on the middle class, it omits the cost of the full repair to the AMT. This cost is projected to increase the deficit by \$844 billion over the next 10 years.

Besides being disingenuous, this budget exacts a financial toll on our nation's disadvantaged citizens while helping to finance billions of dollars in tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. The cost to make the President's tax cuts permanent is \$1.35 trillion over the next decade. At the same time, the President's budget cuts significant social programs, including cuts in job training, education, food stamps, and environmental protection efforts.

Most alarmingly, this budget would allow the Federal Government to turn its back on those Americans who struggle to maintain their

health. The President's budget cuts Medicaid by \$17.2 billion over 5 years, thereby jeopardizing the care of this country's most vulnerable Americans. The budget also cuts Medicare spending by \$105 billion over the next 10 years, in part by reducing payments for providers. Furthermore, the President's budget proposes real cuts to the National Institute of Health. At a time when we are making significant progress in finding cures to cancer and heart disease, and the threat of serious new diseases such as Avian flu and other pandemics loom, the President is proposing to slow scientific and medical advancement.

The President's budget also fails to reduce the cost of health care or address the rising number of uninsured Americans. At a time when there are already 46 million Americans without any health coverage, this budget is wrong for our country.

This shameful budget rewards well-connected wealthy interests at the expense of the poor. Because the President's budget promotes the wrong priorities for our country, it should be rejected.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"
KORR

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, February 7th was a very special day for a fine American who had been very special to me and my family. It is the 90th birthday of William "Bill" Korr, across-the-street neighbor and family friend throughout my childhood.

Bill was born in 1916 in Chicago. His parents, Ben and Ida Korofsky, were immigrants from Russia who arrived in the U.S. via Ellis Island near the turn of the century.

When the stock market collapsed in 1929, knocking his parents out of the real estate business they had built, Bill at age 16 essentially ran a family grocery business on the west side of the city. He graduated from Englewood High School in 1934. He also attended the University of Chicago for 2 years but was forced to leave for financial considerations due to an illness in his immediate family.

Because of health issues he was not accepted into the Armed Forces during the WWII era.

In 1948 Bill cofounded National Hobbymodel Distributors, a wholesale operation servicing independent retail hobby shops nationwide. Most importantly, he was one of the six original founders of the Hobby Industry of America, HIA, known today as the Craft & Hobby Association, CHA, an organization that caters to a multi-billion dollar industry including craft, hobby, floral and scrap-booking products among its mix and whose leadership includes top executives from numerous prestigious and publicly traded companies.

From 1961 to present, Bill was involved as the principle of the William Korr Sales Company, a manufacturer's representative firm specializing in the floral, craft and hobby industries that today has grown to an operation which has three regional offices and accounts for over \$15,000,000 in annual sales. Bill continues to go into the office 4 days a week.

Bill has three sons, Jerold, 60—Sheila, Elliott, 56—Janet, and Bruce, 52—Kimberely. He was married to Florence Tirengel Korr for 54 years before her passing in 1997. He has four granddaughters, Gail, Karen, Linda, & Alexandria, and just recently became a great grandfather when Gail gave birth to Sarah Nicole Atlas on December 5, 2005.

Bill has always been active in his synagogue and community and served as a scout master, long-term board member, and contributor of both funds and wisdom.

He remarried at the ripe old age of 87. His new bride is Sally Wisper Korr.

Golden words of wisdom: "The DJIA will never go above 1,000," "My advice is worth what you're willing to pay for it," "Nixon's the one."

I remember Bill as a kind and gentle man, always nice to all the kids on the block. He lived directly across the street from me on Jarvis Avenue in the unpretentiously middleclass Chicago neighborhood of Rogers Park. It was a tight-knit block on which everybody knew everybody and the families took care of each other. The man I called "Uncle" Bill is a great example of a hardworking, honorable and honest American, loved by his family and community, and I wish him a very happy birthday.

HONORING HOPE MATSUI YASUI
UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a distinguished woman who has faithfully served the State of California for over 38 years. Hope Matsui Yasui retires this month from the State of California Employment Development Department. As her friends, family and colleagues gather to celebrate her decades of public service, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding citizen of Sacramento.

Hope began her career of public service to the State of California in 1962 with the California Department of Transportation, and then in 1967 she continued her career with the State Employment Development Department. The majority of her years of public service were with the State Employment Development Department and the California Governor's Committee on Employment of Peoples with Disabilities.

Hope successfully represented the California Governor's Committee on Employment of Peoples with Disabilities on a major California task force to work with the Social Security Administration to remove employer disincentives against hiring disabled people. While with the Committee, she was also an original co-founder of the California Model Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities. This well respected youth program led to the establishment of similar programs in over 30 States throughout the country.

Throughout her many years of employment with the State of California, Hope has established herself as an excellent role model through her career of exemplary public and community service. She has developed an impeccable reputation within Sacramento and throughout the State, as she has promoted

employment opportunity for people with disabilities and for all Californians.

As a devoted public servant and community leader, she has shown compassion and understanding for those who are underprivileged in life. Her profound sense of understanding for those less fortunate was developed, in part, as a result of the injustices she faced at birth in a Japanese internment camp in Minidoka, Idaho amidst the turmoil of World War II.

Hope has maintained her commitment to the people of California and has remained dedicated to her family. Therefore, I would like to congratulate Hope Matsui Yasui for her many successes and for her well deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, as Hope Matsui Yasui's family, friends and colleagues gather to celebrate her career of service to Sacramento and to the State of California, I am truly privileged to congratulate one of Sacramento's most respectable citizens. The State of California has greatly benefited from having Hope Matsui Yasui's strong leadership and compassionate heart. Her dedication to people with disabilities and to the people of California has lasted a lifetime and has forever improved the lives of Californians with disabilities. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me today in wishing Hope continued success and happiness in all of her future endeavors, wherever her retirement may take her.

THANKING GARY DENICK FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EHLER. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in February 2006, I rise to thank Mr. Gary Denick for 32 years of outstanding service to the United States government, with the majority of it served here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Gary began his government career in 1972 as a soldier in the U.S. Army after graduating from Miami University of Ohio. He was trained as a television specialist, served a tour of duty in the Republic of Korea and was honorably discharged in 1975. Three years later, in May of 1978, Gary joined the production staff of the House Recording Studio as a camera operator. The next year he was part of the original television crew that made history providing the first floor coverage of House proceedings.

Over the past 28 years Gary has risen through the ranks to become the director of the House Recording Studio. He has led not by authority, but by example. His management philosophy has been, "When you have good people just stand out of their way and let them do their job." Throughout the most difficult times his motto has been, "With faith and confidence things always work out." The House Recording Studio's record of excellent customer service to Members of the House of Representatives reflects Gary Denick's leadership and vision.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Gary for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

HONORING THE ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commend the Arlington County Civic Federation on the occasion of its 90th anniversary celebration.

Born from a handful of concerned citizens' groups devoted to creating better schools and roads, the Arlington Civic Federation has grown to over 80 organizations as the oldest and longest standing voice in the county devoted to improving residents' lives.

As the boundaries of new civic organizations that comprise the Federation have changed over the years, so too have the boundaries of issues, ideas, and actions the Federation has endorsed and successfully championed for its citizenry.

The Federation has battled for Arlington's citizens on issues ranging from school desegregation, affordable housing, operation of the airport authority, HIV/AIDS, Metro and interstate highways, as well as football and baseball stadiums. Standing up for the ordinary citizen with a non-political, nonpartisan, non-sectarian voice, the Federation continues to improve the quality of life for Arlingtonians and shape public policy from the local to Federal level.

Patrick A. Smaldore Jr., a lifelong Arlington County resident, career civil servant and Naval reservist, now serves the Federation as President.

He is joined by the leadership of Vice President—Jackie Snelling, Treasurer—Frances Finta, Secretary—Burt Bostwick, Chairman of the Executive Committee—Larry Mayer, Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee—Stan Karson and members Eileen Williams, Beth Offenbacher, and Frank Emerson. Their work, along with the 14 standing committees is responsible for engaging new issues as they arise.

With the Commonwealth's coming 400th anniversary, we are reminded of how intimate a role Arlington has played in the shaping of our Nation's history. George Washington, James Madison and George Mason all worked or owned land in the county. As the voice of its people, the Federation also reminds us of the innovation and leadership that will continue to contribute to our future.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in honoring the 90th anniversary of the Arlington County Civic Federation for its many contributions to public affairs and its ongoing commitment to the people of Arlington County.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I attended the heartfelt memorial

service of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. Mrs. King was a model citizen and will truly be missed by the Nation. Last week the House debated H. Res. 655, which honored the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. This resolution recognized her contributions as a leader in the Civil Rights Movement and expresses condolences to the King family on her passing.

Coretta Scott King was born on April 27, 1927, in Heiberger, Alabama. Mrs. King graduated from Antioch College with a degree in music and education and was granted a scholarship to study concert singing at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. It was in Boston where she met a young theology student, Martin Luther King, Jr., who was attending Boston University, and her life was forever changed. They were soon caught up in a dramatic series of events that sparked the modern Civil Rights Movement. Dr. King was recognized as the face of the movement, called upon to lead various marches from city to city, with Mrs. King right by his side, encouraging citizens, regardless of race, to defy the laws of segregation.

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Channeling her grief, Mrs. King concentrated her energies on fulfilling her husband's work by building The King Center in Atlanta, Georgia, as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream. However, Mrs. King's greatest accomplishment was yet to come. She set out to establish her late husband's birthday as a national holiday, and that dream came to fruition when Congress declared the first observance of this national holiday in 1986. Today, the holiday is marked by annual celebrations in over 100 countries.

Mrs. King was an influential public figure and is referred to as the "First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement." She was a world-renowned speaker who gave hundreds of speeches both abroad and at home, and was active in organizations such as the National Council of Negro Women and the Women's Strike for Peace. Mrs. King was also known for her writing, most notably for her autobiography, *My Life With Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Mrs. Coretta Scott King had a vision and she had the wherewithal to keep that vision alive. The journey towards equality for all has been greatly advanced by her work and accomplishments. Mrs. Coretta Scott King is a true American hero and will dearly be missed by her family, the Nation, and the world.

FREEDOM OF RAFAEL IBARRA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about Rafael Ibarra, a long suffering and heroic political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Ibarra heads the 30th of November Democratic Party, an island wide movement dedicated to the establishment of a democratic society, an opposition movement to the Castro tyranny. In 1995 he was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag. In 1997, his wife Maritza Lugo, also a highly respected pro-democracy activist, was arrested and incarcerated

for 2 years; leaving their 2 daughters without their parents. On multiple occasions after 1999, Maritza would continue to be arrested and harassed by the tyrannical regime. Even while they were in prison at the same time, the tyrant insisted on evicting their 2 girls from their small farm house, which had become a gathering point for human rights and pro-democracy meetings.

Mr. Ibarra was one of the political prisoners who signed the Cuban flag painted on a pillow case and sent it to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Maritza and her two daughters, at Mr. Ibarra's request, fled Cuba as refugees in 2002 to the United States so that the 2 girls would be able to live in freedom.

This year marks an abominable anniversary, the 11th year that Mr. Ibarra has been imprisoned. While other fathers have been able to watch and guide their daughters as they grow up, Mr. Ibarra has been incarcerated in the gulag for daring to dream of and to work on behalf of a democratic Cuba.

Rafael Ibarra is a hero, in the tradition of the great figures of Cuba's long struggle for liberty. Quintin Banderas, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Ignacio Agramonte, Antonio Maceo, and thousands of other Cuban heroes established a tradition of heroism that today is being continued by countless men and women who have given their best years and often their lives for the freedom of Cuba. Rafael Ibarra is a hero in that same admirable tradition.

My thoughts and prayers are with him, as is my solidarity and profound admiration. Mr. Speaker, this courageous man is locked in Castro's gulag for failing to keep silent about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. My colleagues, we must never forget those who are locked in gulags because of their desire for freedom for their countries. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Rafael Ibarra and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

GEORGE SOROS' INFILTRATION OF CPAC

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, George Soros, the radical liberal financier who dedicated himself to defeating President George W. Bush in the last election, has taken a lesson from Jack Abramoff.

As much of Abramoff's pernicious lobbying technique has come to light, we've seen how he was adept at manipulating certain conservative organizations to pursue a decidedly anti-conservative agenda, namely the promotion of gambling. By working hand in hand with the Traditional Values Coalition, TVC, for example, he was able in 2000 to undermine conservatives' best effort to outlaw on-line gambling. Proxy organizations played a fundamental role in Abramoff's strategy.

Since 1974, the American Conservative Union has held the Conservative Political Action Conference, or CPAC, which is billed as a 3-day meeting for thousands of conservative activists and leaders to discuss current issues and policies and set the agenda for the future.

I myself have addressed the conference in the past.

One can imagine a conservative's surprise to read on the CPAC 2006 agenda that a representative of the Marijuana Policy Project, MPP, is slated to moderate—yes, moderate—a panel Friday discussing drug policy. For those who are unacquainted with it, the pro-marijuana MPP has been funded by Soros in the past. Also represented on the panel is the Drug Policy Alliance, which is Soros' principal pro-drug arm. Incidentally, the moderator himself is a convicted drug dealer.

What on earth were the CPAC organizers thinking? Why would the American Conservative Union allow extremist liberals like George Soros and Peter Lewis—who is responsible for most of MPP's funding—to access a meeting of conservatives? And, in exactly whose estimation would there be balance in a debate moderated by the MPP?

Thanks to Accuracy in Media Report Editor Cliff Kincaid, these are just a few of the questions that the CPAC organizers now face. I'd like to submit into the RECORD his article of February 7, 2006, entitled "Soros Infiltrates Conservative Movement." In exchange for a donation, is this 32-year-old conservative conference turning itself into a Soros proxy organization just like Abramoff's TVC?

Over the last number of months, we've been surprised to learn how one such as Abramoff was able to exploit conservatives for his own purposes. Surely in this environment we can't miss seeing it when it's happening once again.

[From Accuracy in Media, Feb. 7, 2006]

SOROS INFILTRATES CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT (By Cliff Kincaid)

Calvina Fay of the Drug Free America Foundation has pulled out as a speaker at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), which begins in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, because a "mini-debate" she was scheduled to appear in had been stacked against her. As it now stands, the event will feature two advocates of drug legalization, both of them funded by leftist billionaire and anti-Bush activist George Soros.

Having put most of the left-wing political movement and many liberal Democrats on his payroll, it is apparent that Soros is now working to manipulate the conservative movement. It is surprising that CPAC is facilitating his scheme.

A convicted insider trader who specializes in manipulating the currencies of the nations of the world, Soros is usually depicted as a "philanthropist" who believes in an "Open Society." Hence, the name of his major funding mechanism, the Open Society Institute. In the Soros view, of course, an "open society" means encouraging behavior that undermines the traditional values and culture of America. This is hardly "conservative."

In addition to promoting drug legalization, his causes include open borders, gay rights, abortion rights, opposition to the death penalty, lighter sentences for criminals, and assisted suicide. He tried almost single-handedly to buy the White House for Democrat John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election by spending over \$20 million on controversial "527" organizations promoting his candidacy. On foreign policy issues, Soros is a big backer of the U.N. and opposes the Bush Administration's war in Iraq and handling of the war on terrorism.

The scheduled Friday CPAC event on "A Conservative Drug Policy" was to feature a mini-debate between Ethan Nadelmann of the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) and Calvina

Fay. The "moderator," hardly unbiased, was scheduled to be Rob Kampia of the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP). The Soros Open Society Institute has given the DPA millions of dollars, including \$2.5 million in 2004 alone. MPP has been funded by Soros as well as Peter Lewis, chairman of the Progressive Corporation, who was arrested in New Zealand several years ago after customs officers found marijuana in his luggage. Lewis, who gave \$340,000 to MPP in 2004, is also a major funder of the ACLU.

Court documents show that Kampia himself was convicted in 1989 and sentenced to prison for possessing and intending to distribute marijuana.

While paying thousands of dollars to appear at a conservative conference, MPP is selling \$500 tickets to a March 30 fundraising "party" at the Playboy Mansion. Playboy founder Hugh Hefner provided the seed money for the drug legalization movement, which is now underwritten mostly by Soros and Lewis.

"Playmates will be available to give tours of the mansion grounds as you enjoy great music and comedy in one of America's most renowned settings," says MPP's website. A member of the "host committee" for the Playboy event is Tommy Chong, who participated in pro-marijuana movies as part of the "Cheech and Chong" team and served nine months in prison for selling drug paraphernalia. You won't need an NSA surveillance program to know what's going on in the Playboy Mansion on March 30.

When Calvina Fay saw that the CPAC "debate" had been stacked against her, she pulled out. However, her group will still have a booth at CPAC. So will the Drug Policy Alliance. Later in the day, after the "debate," Kampia's MPP will host an event for all CPAC attendees and guests on why the war on drugs should not target marijuana users. It is not known if Playmates will appear.

The Drug Policy Alliance also participated in CPAC last year, boasting that Executive Director Nadelmann was "well-received" and "appeared on several conservative radio shows coinciding with the conference."

This is troubling because DPA and MPP are part of a major deception campaign to convince people that marijuana is harmless or even has medical benefits. Accuracy in Media last year disclosed the existence of documentary evidence that the "medical marijuana" movement is a fraud that exploits sick people. Video footage of a pro-marijuana event showed Ed Rosenthal, formerly of High Times magazine, speaking to dozens of marijuana activists. "With all the talk about medical marijuana, I have to tell you that I also use marijuana medically (laughter)," he says. "I have a latent glaucoma, which has never been diagnosed (more laughter). And the reason why it has never been diagnosed is because I've been treating it (laughter). . . But there is a reason why I do use it. And that is because I like to get high. (cheers, applause). Marijuana is fun."

Another video excerpt showed Richard Cowan, former director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, saying that "The key to it [legalization] is medical access because once you have hundreds of thousands of people using marijuana medically under medical supervision the whole scam is going to be blown. . . Once there's medical access and if we continue to do what we have to do—and we will—then we'll get full legalization." Not surprisingly, a Federal investigation of "medical marijuana" clubs and dispensaries in California has found they had been used as a cover for drug dealing and money laundering.

At the same time, evidence of a connection between marijuana and mental illness continues to mount. The influence of marijuana

figures in the sensational murder case of Colin Roger Cotting, a 16-year-old in Alaska who allegedly raped his stepmother, beat her to death with a baseball bat, and stuffed her in a freezer. The murder resulted from a dispute when Cotting was confronted by his stepmother about his marijuana use. Cotting told police that he was too stoned on marijuana to remember what had happened.

In a case that received national attention, Joseph Smith, the convicted killer of 11-year-old Carlie Brucia, tried to blame his criminal behavior on using drugs, including cocaine and marijuana.

British newspapers are now covering a sensational case of "cannabis psychosis," involving a music producer, Lisa Voice, who "was viciously assaulted in her home by a family friend who had been made psychotic by the drug," as the London Sunday Times noted. She suffered a broken jaw, broken nose, collapsed lung, and eye injuries, and has already had 11 medical operations to rebuild her face and head. The attacker had been smoking marijuana since the age of 15 and believed he was getting subliminal messages from television.

In Britain, penalties for the use and possession of marijuana had been lowered after the drug had been reclassified. But Dr. Shahrokh Mireskandari, lawyer for Lisa Voice, was quoted in the Sunday Times as saying, "Let government ministers who say cannabis is a harmless drug come and explain that decision to Mrs. Voice and her many doctors. Cannabis should never have been reclassified and people such as Mrs. Voice now face a lifetime of pain because of the dangers of this drug."

So why is CPAC giving Nadelmann, Kampia and their ilk a platform?

EULOGY FOR CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3 MITCHELL "MITCH" CARVER

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, many young men and women have been killed and wounded in the Iraqi conflict—more than 2,000 killed and 17,000 wounded. I'd like today to reprint my eulogy given at the funeral of CW03 Mitchell "Mitch" Carver as a tribute not only to him and his parents, but as a reminder to all citizens of our country that "freedom is not free."

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead! Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

John McCrae wrote those words before his own death on the battlefield nearly 90 years ago. We have learned to protect the lives of our soldiers better. In the war to end all wars, more died in single battles than America has lost in all wars since. America has learned to protect our soldiers better—but not well enough for we are here to pay homage to the life of Mitch Carver. We take pride in reducing our casualties, but the sacrifice of the family is not a small percent, it is not a small loss, it is not a small number. Their sacrifice is enormous, it is total, it is all.

Mitch Carver took up "The Torch" for the country he loved. He knew who he was fighting. He was fighting the evil that plants a bomb that kills innocent women and children and families who harm no one. Murderers who kill, kidnap defenseless women and children for no reason but to show evil. He chose to do it. For it is not the press who protect our right to free speech, it is men like Mitch Carver who choose to do it. It is riot the Congress, not the government bureaucrats, who protect us from those who would enslave us. It is men like Mitch Carver who choose to do it. For another time Mitch Carver rejoined his comrades in Iraq because he knew they needed him and he believed he could, with his advanced skill, keep them safer, and perhaps lessen their danger. And that he did. We may never know how many he saved by his advanced skill.

In the 8 years I have been privileged to serve as representative on the board of our country's military academy at West Point, I have seen thousands of young men and women take the oath to protect us. Theirs is a simple pledge: "Duty, Honor, Country." In this world of being told there is no black nor white, there is only gray political correctness and "is" has to be defined, I thank God we have young men and women who have no trouble defining "Duty, Honor, Country."

The late T.B. Macaulay in his poem *Horatius at the Bridge* says, "To every man upon this earth death cometh soon or late. And now how can man die better than facing fearful odds, for the ashes of his fathers and the temples of his gods." Mitch Carver believed in and loved God. He knew the Bible. He could quote this verse better than I, "For God so loved the Earth that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." Mitch Carver risked and gave his life to perform his duty, but as God promised, he did not perish but will remain in our hearts and memories until he meets his family in another life.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS G. BARTON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Mr. Thomas G. Barton, Jr. on his recent offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Thomas sought a nomination to West Point through my office, competing with a group of highly qualified applicants. He passed the evaluation process, and I am proud to have given him a Congressional nomination.

Thomas is currently enrolled in the West Point Civil Preparatory Program in Roswell, New Mexico, which speaks volumes about his passion to get into West Point. He has the military in his blood. Thomas's father and brother are both graduates of West Point's distinguished program.

A review of Thomas's life and qualities demonstrate that he should make an excellent cadet at West Point and hopefully an excellent officer. Thomas has a sense of duty to serve, as shown by the fact that he has achieved the elite rank of Eagle Scout. He has shown dedication as a member of the Kingwood High School Lacrosse Team, where he was voted captain by the rest of the team. He has held leadership positions also in the Kingwood High

marching band and the Boy Scouts. He won the coveted K Award—for best in class—for Outstanding Musical Contribution.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas is a fine young man who will serve his country with distinction. He understands the challenges and the commitment that lies ahead of him because his family is steeped in military tradition. We wish him good fortune in this new chapter of his life.

Thomas Barton will make us proud. America will be better because of Thomas Barton's choice to serve our country.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAKAHASHI MARKET

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the Takahashi family, proprietors of the Takahashi Market on the 100th anniversary of their operations in the city of San Mateo, California, which is located in my congressional district.

The history of the Takahashi Market begins with Mr. Tokutaro Takahashi, a former salt-mine laborer, who recognized that recently arriving Japanese immigrants in the Peninsula were quickly becoming a burgeoning new market. According to Kenge Takahashi, son of Tokutaro Takahashi, the business began as a peddling operation, with a horse and cart, to display and carry the groceries, clothes and fishing equipment he sold to them.

Mr. Speaker, the Takahashi Market is no longer a mere push-cart shop, but has grown to become an established landmark of the Peninsula, providing groceries and community, not only to the Japanese, but to all people in the Bay Area. Having been run by three successive generations of Takahashis, the business has withstood extraordinary challenges and overcame devastating obstacles. One sad example of this, is that the market was closed for several years in the 1940s when the Takahashi family was interned in the World War II Japanese relocation camps, first in San Bruno, California, and then in Utah.

After being released from the internment camps, Kenge Takahashi joined the Army, and served honorably as an infantryman in the highly decorated, all-Japanese 422nd Regiment of United States Army, F Company. After completing his service, Kenge returned to his family business, and prepared to meet the ever-changing needs of his customers. Over the next few decades the Takahashi Market grew to meet the changing demographics of its clientele and stopped carrying fishing tackle and began stocking Hawaiian food in response to a growing population of a Hawaiian community, resulting from airline hires.

Mr. Speaker, while the Takahashi Market has occupied many storefronts at various locations on the Peninsula during its 100 year history, the store continuously maintain its extraordinary reputation as a reliable, family-owned and run business that specializes in products and foods to sustain the Japanese community, and now also the Hawaiian community. On the occasion of its centennial, Takahashi Market is remodeling to add a commercial kitchen, once again, expanding and di-

versifying the business to offer prepared foods for sale.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Takahashi Market for its 100 years of outstanding achievements on the Peninsula and extend my hope that many more generations of Takahashis enjoy the success and community involvement of the Takahashi Market.

TRIBUTE TO THE FOX CHAPEL HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate The Fox Chapel High School Marching Band of Pittsburgh for its success at the Gator Bowl on December 31, 2005.

The Fox Chapel High School Marching Band traveled to Jacksonville, Florida to play in the Gator Bowl. While at the game the bands' performance won nine awards. The band won five awards at the field show, including first place in Class A and also won Outstanding awards for general effect, auxiliary, marching and maneuvering and music. In addition to the five awards won on the field, the band also won four awards at the parade, including first place in Class A, as well as three Outstanding awards.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating The Fox Chapel High School Marching Band. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute a distinguished group like The Fox Chapel High School Marching Band.

IN RECOGNITION OF LUCY NOLES GREEN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Lucy Noles Green, of Randolph County, Alabama. Ms. Green had a very special birthday recently, having turned 105 years old on December 31, a day which she celebrated with family and friends in the Hawk community where she lives.

From 1900 until today, Ms. Green has lived in the Hawk community. She has enjoyed life, and fondly recalls playing the organ and sewing. She has witnessed the introduction of cars, computers, and laundry machines, wars, depressions, and peaceful times alike. She was married to Thomas Emmett Green for sixty years, and together they raised five sons. These days Ms. Green enjoys visitors and family, and her 14 grandchildren.

I am proud to recognize Ms. Green today in the House, and congratulate her on this important milestone in her life. I wish her all the best and many more enjoyable years with her family and friends.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Coretta Scott King, devoted wife, mother, grandmother and civil rights leader, whose courageous mission has left an indelible light of peace and justice visible across our country and around the world. Mrs. King gracefully raised aloft the dreams and legacy of the most prominent visionary for social change in our nation's history, her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Their unified mission of peacefully dismantling the racist foundation of America would change the course of our Nation forever.

Mrs. King's entire life was framed by dignity, courage and an unwavering commitment to social justice and humanitarian causes. She grew up working in the cotton fields of Alabama, where she experienced the harsh reality of racism. Taught by her parents that only a solid education could open the door to freedom and opportunity, Mrs. King focused on her studies and graduated with honors from Antioch College in southern Ohio, one of the first integrated colleges in the country. While a student, she joined the NAACP and became deeply involved in the civil rights movement, foregoing a career in music to carry out the work of peace and justice.

The assassination of Dr. King did not diminish her resolve. She courageously forged ahead on the road to justice, despite the danger inherent in her noble cause. As a young widow with four young children to raise, Mrs. King remained steadfast in her commitment to her children and also unwavering in her determination to continue on the path set by Dr. King. She took up the torch of her late husband, holding it high and dignified, exposing a broken society degraded by racism and injustice and illuminating the reality of peaceful change.

Refined, articulate and reflecting a quiet grace, Mrs. King did not retreat from the movement sparked by Dr. King. She deliberately stepped out into the sharp glare of the public and bravely marched on, leading civil protests where her husband had marched before. She led an unrelenting effort to establish Martin Luther King Jr. Day, an endeavor that took her fifteen years and over six million petitions. Determined to keep Dr. King's legacy alive, Mrs. King founded the King Center in 1968, serving as its president for 26 years.

Armed with a sharp mind, a warm smile and a passion for social change, Mrs. King journeyed around the world, speaking to college and church audiences and meeting with world leaders. Mrs. King championed the rights of the poor and advocated for social and economic justice for women and for the protection and rights of gay men and lesbian women. She marched in protest against racial discrimination across the South and was arrested for protesting apartheid in South Africa.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and memory of Coretta Scott King, whose life mission on behalf of human rights has served to raise the collective

conscience of the entire world into the promise of universal freedom from oppression. Mrs. King's brilliant legacy, framed in peace, determination and dignity, will forever resound with the voice of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—along our urban streets, across the South and around the world—echoing the ongoing struggle for freedom in a chorus of hope that will someday rise with their words on the dawning of a new day of peace and justice for all.

CONGRATULATING THE GAINESVILLE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA CHAPTER AT THE SOUTHWESTERN EXHIBITION AND LIVESTOCK SHOW IN FORT WORTH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate members of the Gainesville Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter for their opportunity to exhibit livestock at The Southwestern Exhibition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth.

Seven members of the Gainesville FFA Chapter participated in events in late January. Among the youth project exhibited were five lambs and two goats. Marlee Bell also exhibited a first place spring heifer in the Brangus junior heifer show.

The Gainesville FFA chapter has been attending the Fort Worth Stock show for some time now, and they look forward to continuing their participation for years to come.

This is the 110th year for the show, and is billed as "the nation's oldest livestock show." Participating in the show teaches students agricultural principles along with animal husbandry and livestock judging skills.

I extend my sincere congratulations to these the youth of the Gainesville FFA Chapter for their success and participation. I wish them the best of luck in their dedicated pursuit in future opportunities.

COMMEMORATION OF BOB MARLEY'S BIRTHDAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay homage to a man who gave a voice to the voiceless first in his native Jamaica and then throughout the world. The legendary reggae singer Bob Marley would have turned 61 on Monday, February 6 and it is appropriate that we pause to recognize the extraordinary impact of his life and work. Not only did Marley define reggae music as we know it today, but he introduced it outside his native land of Jamaica, achieving international superstar status and shaping music on a global scale. His message of freedom and empowerment resonated everywhere and was an inspiration to a generation.

While evolving his sound to encompass rock and African themes, Marley never diluted his

message, underpinning his music with the politics and theology of his Rastafarian beliefs and his personal struggles in Jamaica. He has inspired everyone from Stevie Wonder to The Clash with his lyrics.

His music was a social force, calling for opportunity, justice and freedom and challenging those who sought change to act to achieve it. Throughout his career, he was influenced by the gulf between haves and have-nots, a culture of oppression that was particularly evident in his poverty- and crime-ridden homeland. Reggae's mesmerizing rhythms carried an undeniable signature that rose to the fore of the music scene in the 1970s, largely through the recorded work of Marley and his group the Wailers. Some of his albums, such as *Natty Dread* and *Rastaman Vibration* endure as reggae milestones that gave a voice to the poor of Jamaica and, by extension, the world. Much of his music today aims to uplift the impoverished and powerless, instilling in them a beautiful sense of dignity in their culture, despite the hardships they encountered in their daily lives. In 1978, he received a United Nations Peace Award for his attempts to calm the warring factions of Jamaican politics and played at Zimbabwe's independence celebrations in 1980, where he came to learn that more Zimbabweans knew the lyrics of his song than they did the words of the national anthem.

Marley died prematurely at age 36 in 1981, after doctors discovered a cancerous growth on his foot haphazardly after a soccer game. Despite his death, the heartbeat reggae rhythms of the music that he left behind continue to thrive today. Moreover, Jamaica itself has been transformed by his legacy. Marley was buried on the island with full state honors on May 21, 1981. In a crowning irony, given the reviled status that Rastafarians and their music had once suffered at the hands of the Jamaican government, Marley's pacifist reggae anthem, "One Love," was adapted as a theme song by the Jamaican Tourist Board.

Bob Marley continues to live today in our hearts and minds, as does his music. With anthems such as "Get Up Stand" he continues to fight for those who feel they cannot. With such a vision, Marley continues to be worthy of recognition and remembrance.

TRIBUTE TO TERENCE W. STARZ, MD

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Terence W. Starz, M.D., who will become the 141st president of the Allegheny County Medical Society on January 28, 2006.

Dr. Starz is an internal medicine physician at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian Hospital. He is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, with a subspecialty in Rheumatology. He currently serves as a Delegate to the Pennsylvania Medical Society and is a member on the Allegheny County Medical Society Foundation Board.

Over the years Dr. Starz has been influential in the medical field. He was a prominent

figure in the creation of the Obesity Task Force, a collaboration of medical personnel, hospitals and business affiliates, to help identify the cause of obesity and help promote healthy living and eating habits, for adults as well as for children. Dr. Starz stands firm with his view of diversity in the medical profession and disparity of treatment in minority patients.

On Saturday, January 28, 2006, Dr. Terence W. Starz will officially take the stand as the 141st president of the Allegheny County Medical Society.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Dr. Terence W. Starz, M.D. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a distinguished person like Dr. Starz.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. GEORGE
C. SMITH, SR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. George C. Smith, Sr., of Lineville, Alabama. Dr. Smith is a highly accomplished medical doctor and public servant, and will soon be retiring from Clay County Medical Clinics.

In 1965, Dr. Smith began his career as a medical doctor. Dr. Smith was actively involved in the Medical Association of Alabama, the American and Alabama Academies of Family Physicians, as well as other state medical committees. Dr. Smith also served on the city of Lineville City Council from 1973 to 1984, as well as president of both the Alabama Cattlemen's Association from 1985 to 1986 and the Southeastern Livestock Exposition from 1994 to 1996.

Dr. Smith has spent his career helping others, both in the field of medicine and as a public servant in Clay County. His hard work and dedication in public healthcare will certainly be missed. I congratulate Dr. Smith for his many accomplishments over the years, and wish him all the best in his retirement.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
DANIEL D. DRAKE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Daniel D. Drake, beloved husband, father, grandfather, outstanding educator and administrator, and friend and mentor to countless individuals, in and out of the classroom.

Equipped with a sharp mind, integrity, a kind heart and a strong work ethic, Mr. Drake forged a personal journey lined with educational and professional accomplishments that sprung from humble beginnings. His devotion to public education and community service is framed by his legacy of unwavering commitment and outreach to African-American youth of our community, a commitment that continues to guide our young women and men

toward the light of academic and professional achievement. The accomplishments of Daniel D. Drake are numerous and significant. He was a football and track star at East High School in Cleveland, where he graduated in 1951. He was awarded college scholarships in football and track and excelled in both sports at Miami University, where he graduated with a degree in education in 1955. He taught at Thomas Edison School in Cleveland and then became an administrator at Collinwood High School.

Mr. Drake continued his education, earning a master's degree and a doctorate degree in educational administration from the University of Akron. He served as principal of East High School, the Cleveland School of Science and also at John F. Kennedy High School. He also served as a community superintendent with the Milwaukee Public Schools before returning to Cleveland and accepting a faculty position at Cleveland State University. Mr. Drake also founded and served as the first president of the Metropolitan Cleveland Alliance of Black School Educators, whose mission of addressing the needs of African-American students remains unwavering.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Daniel D. Drake, whose devotion to his family and to the youth of Cleveland remains a beacon of hope and possibility throughout our community. I offer my heartfelt condolences to his wife of 44 years, Adrienne; to his daughter, Adriana; to his sons, Darian and Daniel; to his three grandchildren, and to his extended family and many friends. Mr. Drake's inspiring vision and steadfast service continues to pave the way for educational and professional opportunities for the people of our community, young and old, and he will be remembered always.

CONGRATULATING THE COOKE
COUNTY 4-H AT THE SOUTHWESTERN
EXHIBITION AND LIVESTOCK
SHOW IN FORT WORTH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate members of the Cooke County 4-H for their opportunity to exhibit livestock and compete at The Southwestern Exhibition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth. Around 30 members of the Cooke County 4-H participated in events in late January.

Special congratulations are in order for additional team and individual winners at the show. Abe Fuhrmann, Garin Taylor, Crystal Fuhrmann and Erin Wyrick won first place for a senior team in the dairy cattle judging contest. Crystal Fuhrmann was also distinguished as the "high point" for an individual senior. Alyssa Smithson, Katherine Parkhill, Justin Smithson and Chris Aitchison comprised the first place team at the junior goat judging contest. Garin Taylor exhibited the "Best of Breed" and "Best Opposite of Breed Palomino" in the Youth Rabbit Show. Taylor's rabbit was also the "Best of Show" second runner-up. Cooper Alexander exhibited the "Best Opposite of Breed Holland Lop," also in the rabbit show.

There were an estimated 10,000 entries by Texas 4-H and Future Farmers of America,

FFA, youth at the Fort Worth Stock Show. It is a prestige to have such success for our local youth.

This is the 110th year for the show, and is billed as "the nation's oldest livestock show." Participating in the show teaches students agricultural principles along with animal husbandry and livestock judging skills.

I extend my sincere congratulations to these the youth of the Cooke County 4-H for their success and participation. I wish them the best of luck in their dedicated pursuit in future opportunities.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
MARVIN SCOTT AT WPIX—CHANNEL 11

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a passionate newsman, Marvin Scott of WPIX—Channel 11, who has dedicated more than 35 years to bringing accurate and unbiased news to all New Yorkers and to enter into the RECORD a Daily News article commemorating Scott's career. Last year marked a great milestone—Scott's 25-year anniversary at WPIX.

For the last quarter century, New Yorkers have welcomed Scott into their homes each evening because the Bronx-born reporter has had his finger on the pulse of the community. From a very young age, Scott wanted to be a reporter. His dream actually started when he sold a photo of a Bronx fire to the Daily News and upon return from the fire, held his first "news broadcast" to his Bronx neighbors, Scott jokingly recounts. Throughout his career, which first began in radio but then WNYW—Channel 5 before his arrival to WPIX—Channel 11, Scott has covered space shuttle launches, interviewed world and local leaders, and most recently traveled to Iraq and spent Christmas with U.S. troops. It is this type of sacrifice and sensitivity that has made Scott an informative and integral part of the New York City media.

One such story that is a testament to Scott's remarkable ability to connect with his viewers is the story of Stephanie Collado, a young girl from Brooklyn who years ago needed a heart transplant. Scott reported on her family's plight and remains in touch with Collado even today, years after the operation. As Scott says, he continues to live his dream. Hopefully, he will do so for many more years to come.

[From the New York Daily News, Nov. 28, 2005]

GREAT SCOTT! 25 YRS. AT 'PIX

(By Richard Huff)

Marvin Scott and a few close friends will gather today to mark a rare milestone in television—a quarter of a century at one station.

The Bronx-born reporter has been with WPIX/Ch. 11 for 25 years, and spent 10 years before that with WNYW/Ch. 5. He was in radio even before that.

"I had a dream of someday being able to be a reporter in New York," said Scott. "A role model of mine as a kid was Gabe Pressman [now at WNBC/Ch. 4] and now Gabe is a contemporary and a friend."

Scott's dream to be a reporter actually started when he sold a photo of a Bronx fire to the Daily News. He made \$27 for the sale.

His first news broadcast, he joked, was when he returned from the fire and delivered the details to his neighbors at Mount Eden and Townsend Aves., in the Bronx.

Decades later, his audience is bigger, of course.

"I do it for the adrenaline and a love for what I do," he said. "I could not think about doing anything else. No two days are alike."

Scott's a stickler for details. Indeed, he's been keeping track of every story he's done for years. He figures he's told more than 4,600 stories in 25 years. "Sure, some are clunkers," he said. "I'll never turn down an assignment."

Scott says he's been on the front line of history. He's covered Space Shuttle launches, interviewed world leaders and spent Christmas last year with soldiers in Iraq. "I'm a story teller," he said. "Every day I tell a story that runs from a minute-and-a-half to three minutes."

One story that has stuck with him for years concerns Stephanie Collado, a young girl from Brooklyn who needed a heart transplant. He followed her story from her mother's pleas for help, to the operation and the years after. He still talks to Collado from time to time.

"It was human," he said. "It was a human story about a little girl in need. Adults would not have handled it as courageously as she did."

The key to survival is being a good writer, and being sensitive, Scott said. That's advice he gives all young journalists, including his daughter Jill Scott, a reporter for New York 1 News.

"I'm most proud of the fact that she did it on her own," Scott said. "She made her own opportunities and she got noticed. It makes me so proud."

And no, even though many of those who started out in the business when Scott did have thrown in the towel, he has no intention of stepping aside anytime soon.

"I just feel blessed," he said. "I am a kid from the Bronx and I'm continuing to fulfill my dream."

TRIBUTE TO JEFFREY SEBASTIAN

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the recipient of the 2005 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, Jeffrey Sebastian.

The Milken National Educator Award is the largest teacher recognition program in the U.S., and honors K-12 teachers, principals, and specialists across America with \$25,000 individual awards. Milken Educators are recommended by a blue ribbon committee of education and policy leaders appointed by each state's department of education. The final selections are made in the fall by the Milken Family Foundation.

Jeffrey Sebastian, a teacher at Quaker Valley High School in Leetsdale, Pennsylvania, was one of the recipients. Having received this award, Jeffrey will participate in the annual Milken National Education Conference this spring in Washington, DC.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Jeffrey Sebastian for all of his hard work in education. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania

and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual like Jeffrey.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF GEMMA SZABO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of my dear friend, Gemma Szabo of North Olmsted, Ohio—loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, dedicated community volunteer and activist, and dear friend and mentor to many.

Family, faith and community were central to her life. A united team, Mrs. Szabo and her beloved late husband, Charles J. Sr., raised their five children: Charles Jr., Gary, Johanna, Tim and Peter, and were a consistent source of strength for them, for their grandchildren and for their great-grandchildren. For many years, Mrs. Szabo worked as a school crossing guard. Aside from her family and work, Mrs. Szabo's energy, generous heart and willingness to make a difference led her to volunteer her time and talents throughout her community. Spiritual and devout, Mrs. Szabo was a long-time member and leader within her parish, St. Richard Catholic Church, where she was an active member of the Ladies Guild.

Mrs. Szabo's endless energy, sharp mind and quick wit easily drew others to her. A staunch Democrat, Mrs. Szabo was a life-long member of the North Olmsted Democratic Club and was a Ward Leader for several years. She had the unique ability to inspire and motivate others, recruiting numerous friends and neighbors to become involved in the election process. Mrs. Szabo forged indelible bonds with civic and political leaders that extended from North Olmsted City Hall to Cleveland City Hall.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Gemma Szabo. Her unwavering commitment to her family, friends and to her community framed her life and served to make a difference within the lives of countless individuals, including my own life, and Gemma Szabo will be remembered always.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN J. WHITE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant First Class Stephen J. White, 39, of Talladega, Alabama, died on January 5, 2006, in Iraq. Sergeant First Class White was assigned to the Third Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, Second Brigade Combat Team of the Fourth Infantry Division based in Fort Hood, Texas. According to initial reports, Sergeant White died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his convoy. His survivors include his wife and seven children.

White was a devoted husband, father, and member of the community, Mr. Speaker. Honorable service to our nation characterized his

long career in the Army, which spanned 20 years and four previous tours of duty.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. This Nation will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF DENTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department on their receipt of National Recreation and Park Association's 2006 "Excellence in Aquatics" award in the Class IV population category.

To receive this honor, agencies must prove a commitment to excellence in aquatics facilities and programming for the community. The programming must be comprehensive with an emphasis on aquatic recreation as a lifelong choice for personal and family recreation. The agency must also have a professional training program that assures the highest quality staffing, plus outreach programs outside its own facilities. Professional staff is also required to show involvement in aquatics activities at the local, State, regional, or national levels over the last 5 years. Facilities and programs must also be fully accessible for people with disabilities.

The award will be presented during the National Aquatic Conference at the Association's annual conference held at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, Texas on March 3, 2006.

I am honored to represent a city that truly cares for providing for its citizens the best in quality recreational activities. It is a mark of a caring community. I extend my sincere congratulations to Mayor Euline Brock and the City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department for their service to the community by maintaining a level of excellence worthy of such an award.

THE NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues to an article entitled, "Luring Business Developers Into Low-Income Areas" that appeared in the New York Times on Wednesday, January 25, 2006.

The article details how the New Markets Tax Credit is transforming low-income urban and rural communities across the United States. The New Markets Tax Credit works by providing investors with a tax credit worth thirty-nine cents over seven years for every dollar in private capital they invest in economically distressed communities.

These investments flow to the low-income areas through intermediaries called Community Development Entities or CDEs. The CDEs are extremely knowledgeable about the communities they serve. They also are very experienced in providing the types of patient, flexible capital which conventional lenders and investors are unable to provide directly in that market.

The empowerment of CDEs is just one example of what sets the New Markets Tax Credit program apart from other anti-poverty initiatives. It also makes sense from a business standpoint since it helps to manage the risk to investors, many of whom had never before invested in a low income community.

In Kentucky, the Credit is being utilized to finance economic development projects, invest in new and expanding businesses, provide community services including health care and child care, and create new jobs. Since the first allocations were awarded in March 2003, seven Community Development Entities in Kentucky have been awarded a total of \$153 million.

These investments are supporting a wide range of projects in Kentucky, particularly in rural areas where the need is so great. Community Ventures Corporation, a CDE based in Lexington, is using the Credit to enable a coffee company to purchase land in West Louisville, build a new 17,500 square foot facility, and renovate a 4,000 square foot structure. The new business site is located in a census tract where the poverty rate is 44.8%. This project doubled the number of employees at the company, enabling it to develop new product lines, allowing it to start a new division to refurbish coffee-brewing equipment, and even made possible the enhancement of its employee-training program.

Another Kentucky-based CDE, Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation, was awarded \$22 million in New Market Tax Credits last year. It plans to use its allocation to invest in health-related businesses and health care facilities throughout rural Eastern Kentucky where many counties are considered to be medically underserved.

In September, I introduced a bipartisan bill, H.R. 3957, which extends the Credit for five years. I hope my colleagues will take some time to read the attached article, learn more about how the program is improving economically distressed urban and rural areas across America and support our efforts in Congress to extend this program.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 25, 2006]

LURING BUSINESS DEVELOPERS INTO LOW-INCOME AREAS

(By Lisa Chamberlain)

When the low-income housing tax credit was created in 1986, it took years for developers, investors and advocates to understand the program and to learn how to make the most use of it. Now it is one of the most important tools for low-income residential real estate, responsible for creating approximately 1.5 million units of affordable housing to date.

Advocates of a little-known development tool called new-market tax credits, the only federal tax credit program for commercial projects in low-income areas, believe the same thing is beginning to happen with commercial real estate. Efforts are already under way to reauthorize the program, which expires next year.

Enacted in December 2000, the new-market tax credit program is helping to create jobs and revitalize streets and even entire downtowns. Projects large and small that most financial specialists agree would never come to fruition otherwise are taking shape because of tax credits worth \$500,000 to \$150 million and even more.

For instance, the tax credits are currently financing the rebuilding of a butter manufacturing cooperative in New Ulm, Minn., that was damaged in a fire. The loss of the cooperative put 130 people out of work, caused economic hardship for 400 family farms and indirectly affected hundreds more jobs in the low-income rural area.

Just south of the central business district in Grand Rapids, Mich., is a nearly completed arts-related mixed-use redevelopment project in an area largely abandoned since the 1950's. Called Martineau Division-Oakes, the 12,000-square-foot commercial space is occupied by the art department of Calvin College and a cafe. There are also 23 spaces for artists to live and work in. Once the project got off the ground, the city committed \$2 million to landscaping, repaving, new lighting, signage and sidewalk improvements in the development's neighborhood.

"It's a very flexible and powerful program," said Robert Poznanski, president of the New Markets Support Company, one of the main recipients of credits from the Treasury Department, which administers the program.

"It's driven by market forces. The federal government doesn't say, 'Use it for this type of business.' It can be used for commercial real estate, a charter school or a community center, as long as the application is competitive and the project is in a low-income area as identified by census tract data."

Tax credits make riskier projects more viable by reducing the debt associated with development costs. Private investors pay less in taxes and the developer passes the savings on to the community by, for example, lowering rent per square foot.

The federal program will allocate up to \$15 billion in tax credits to community development groups over seven years to make businesses or commercial real estate projects in low-income areas more attractive to private investors. Applicants vie for the credits, and so far the process has been highly competitive. In the first three rounds of allocation, beginning in 2003, demand for the credits has outpaced supply by 10 times, according to figures provided by the Treasury Department. Though the tax credits can be used for business development, the majority are used for commercial real estate because of the way the program is structured.

The most recent allocation was completed last fall, bringing the total disbursement to \$8 billion to date. Recipients have five years to use the tax credits to attract private investment, or they are withdrawn and can be reissued elsewhere through 2014.

Dennis Sturtevant, president of Dwelling Place, a nonprofit community development organization, spearheaded the Martineau Division-Oakes project in Grand Rapids. The project used historic tax credits and other grants, in addition to new-market tax credits, to generate \$2.2 million in equity from National City Bank.

"When you're talking about tough neighborhoods and all the costs associated with renovating dilapidated, obsolete buildings with lead and everything else," Mr. Sturtevant said, "you need to combine all these resources to make it work."

Sean P. Welsh, regional president of National City Bank, said: "It required a lot of

creativity. It's complicated, but it's really driving a lot of the urban redevelopment in this and other areas around the country."

One deal that most everyone agrees would have never happened were it not for the tax credits is Plaza Verde in South Minneapolis. Formerly an abandoned building in a low-income Hispanic neighborhood, it is now a 43,000-square-foot business incubator, with locally owned retailing on the ground floor, office space on the second level and a theater company on the top floor.

JoAnna Hicks is the director of real estate for the Neighborhood Development Center, the nonprofit organization that spearheaded Plaza Verde. Even after expenses were deducted, including legal fees, new-market tax credits created almost \$1 million in equity for a project that cost \$4.2 million total.

"Because it's such a complicated financial tool, it's hard for small nonprofits to use," Ms. Hicks said. "But now that we understand it better, we're able to apply it to other projects as well."

Using another allocation of the tax credits, Ms. Hicks's organization has also undertaken the development of a nearly completed public market, called Midtown Global Market, a \$17 million project that will be home to more than 60 vendors selling fresh and prepared foods, as well as handmade arts and crafts.

As the program has only begun to mature, larger projects are just getting under way. Bridgeport, Conn., is undertaking a major redevelopment of its downtown, with approximately 25 percent of the financing coming from new-market tax credits. The total project is estimated to cost up to \$150 million.

"If structured properly, it makes a real difference between a scary development and the deal not being done at all," said Kevin Gremse, director of the National Development Council, which provides financial advice and services to municipalities.

Mr. Gremse used his organization's new-market tax credit allocation to attract a New York City-based private developer, Eric Anderson of Urban Green Builders, to take on the task of reviving downtown Bridgeport, which has suffered years of decline.

Advocates are cautiously optimistic that the program will be reauthorized in 2007. Congress recently passed a bill to assist Gulf Coast states with rebuilding efforts after Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, which included \$1 billion more for the new-market tax credit program geared toward that region.

"The fact that Congress expanded the program is a good sign," said Robert Rapoza, who manages the New Market Tax Credit Coalition, an advocacy organization pushing for the program's reauthorization. "But we have work to do. This is a new tool and government-sponsored finance is relatively uncommon. We're continuing to put together data to strengthen our case."

Of course, it helps to have banks advocating for the tax credit as well. As one of the more active players in the tax credit industry, Zachary Boyers, a senior vice president of US Bank in St. Louis, closed more than 50 deals involving new-market tax credits in 2005 alone.

"The banking community is behind this," Mr. Boyers said. "We are deeply involved in spreading the word. We are working on ways to quantify its impact, which is not easy to do. But other investors, including banks and large corporations, would confirm that they would never be investing in these projects without it."

TRIBUTE TO RYAN PATTON

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome home Ryan Patton from Iraq.

Sergeant Ryan Patton has returned home after spending a year serving his country patrolling the streets of Baghdad. Sergeant Patton was part of the 458 Engineers Unit of the U.S. Army Reserve, and found out he was going to be deployed to Iraq in November 2003. After months of training Sergeant Patton left for Iraq in March 2004. Sergeant Patton left his wife and two young children to defend his country.

Sergeant Patton has returned to his family life, and his old job as the assistant manager at #1 Cochran's Collision Center in Monroeville, Pennsylvania.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Sergeant Ryan Patton for all of his work and dedication to defending our country. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated soldier like Sergeant Patton.

IN RECOGNITION OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY, AUBURN, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Auburn University on its Sesquicentennial Celebration. On February 1, 1856, then-Governor of Alabama, John Winston, signed a charter that established the East Alabama Male College, a small, private male liberal arts college. One hundred fifty years later, Auburn University has become one of the pre-eminent research universities in the South, and most certainly one of our state's most proud and cherished institutions of higher learning.

The University was founded on a three-part mission: instruction, research and outreach. Auburn maintains this mission to this day, boasting an enrollment of over 23,000 students and employing a highly talented faculty of over 1,200. Many of its 13 schools are ranked among our nation's best, and its athletic program certainly is cause for celebration for thousands and thousands of fans and alumni every year.

I am honored today to congratulate Auburn University on its first 150 years, and am proud and humbled for the opportunity to represent its students, faculty and administrators here in the House of Representatives. I thank the House for joining me for this important occasion, and wish Auburn all the best in its next 150 years, here in the "loveliest village on the plains." War Eagle!

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF DR. CARMELITA A. THOMAS, PRESIDENT OF TRI-C WEST

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Dr. Carmelita Thomas, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Dr. Thomas leaves behind a remarkable legacy of leadership, accomplishment and activism on behalf of higher education and throughout our Cleveland community.

Dr. Thomas was born and raised in northern Italy. Her family emigrated to Cleveland when she was a high school senior, yet she quickly overcame the challenges of a new culture and language and graduated with her class from Warrensville Heights High School. With a steady focus on academic achievement, Dr. Thomas earned several bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees from the University of California at Los Angeles. After many years in leadership roles at the Los Angeles Community College District, Dr. Thomas brought her passion, knowledge, expertise and energy to Cleveland, where she served as the President of Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus, where 12,000 students enroll each semester. Dr. Thomas was respected and admired by colleagues and leaders in both the public and private sectors. Her unwavering focus on improving the College is reflected throughout the Campus. Because of her direction, Tri-C's Western Campus is now a training center for digital technology for visual communication and also includes cutting-edge medical technology used to train health care professionals, such as electroneuro technology and diagnostic sonography.

Dr. Thomas' commitment to others extended beyond the campus of Tri-C. Her boundless energy and commitment to making a positive difference is evidenced within her activism and volunteer service on many local boards and organizations, including her service as a member of the Board of Trustees at St. John Westshore Hospital; the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce; the American Council on Education; and the American Council for International and Intercultural Educational Organizations. Dr. Thomas' personal interests mirrored the passion and energy she committed to her profession, and ranged in scope from travel, to cooking, to the classical arts.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Dr. Carmelita A. Thomas. I offer my deepest condolences to her husband of 45 years, James E. Thomas; to her daughters, Sondra and Sonia; to her sons-in-law, Timothy and Jim; to her grandsons, Jeremy and Bradley; to her brothers and sisters; and to her extended family members and many friends. Her numerous accomplishments, marked by personal and professional integrity, served to make a positive difference in all areas of higher education throughout the Western Campus of Tri-C and throughout our entire community, and she will be remembered always.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish the membership of the Organization of Chinese Americans a healthy and happy New Year for the year 4704, the year of the Dog.

The New Year is a time for reflection and thanksgiving for the joys of life and loved ones and I am thankful for the richness that this organization brings to my region. Chinese Americans have made great contributions of western Pennsylvania and to our nation as a whole and I am very honored for this opportunity to wish them the best year yet in 4704.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in wishing the members of the organization of Chinese Americans a very happy and prosperous New Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAURA STEELE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to Miss Laura Steele, an Auburn University student who recently led an effort to change the University's "Holiday Tree" back to its more traditional name, "Christmas Tree."

In December of 2005, Miss Steele took issue with an attempt to rename the school's traditional tree. In a widely publicized initiative, Steele, a senator-at-large and Chairwoman of the Auburn College of Republicans, introduced a resolution before the Student Government Association calling for the more traditional "Christmas Tree" name to be restored for use at Auburn.

Her campaign gathered hundreds of signatures in support of the effort, and led to more than 20,000 calls of support to student leaders. She garnered the support of our state legislators, Governor Riley, and influential leaders across our state and around the world. I was delighted to see her resolution adopted, and am pleased that next year Auburn's tree will once again be known as its Christmas Tree.

We are indeed proud of Miss Steele. Her efforts to recognize and promote the true meaning of Christmas here at Auburn should serve as a reminder for us all that our belief in the Almighty is one of the core strengths of our nation. I applaud her efforts, and congratulate her for her leadership, her courage, and abiding faith.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY LESTER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Harry Lester upon his retirement as the Director of District 2 of the United Steelworkers of America.

Mr. Lester has dedicated his life's work to the well-being and safety of steelworkers. The son of a West Virginia coal miner, who was tragically lost in a mining accident, Mr. Lester grew up to be a leading advocate for protecting the rights of steelworkers through the creation and preservation of decent wages, health benefits, workplace safety regulations, and education opportunities.

Mr. Lester began his career as an engineer with the McLouth Steel Corporation in Trenton, Michigan, in 1954 and rose to national attention in the 1980s for his leading role in the fight to save the company from bankruptcy and to preserve the jobs of its 3,600 steelworkers. As the USWA District Director and a member of the McLouth Steel Board of Directors, Mr. Lester orchestrated in 1988 the largest employee stock buyout of the time. While the company ultimately closed its doors in 1994, he has never ceased in his efforts to preserve the United States' steel industry and to provide for the rights of USWA members.

Notably, Mr. Lester engineered a Voluntary Employee Benefit Association plan and negotiated Cooperative Partnership Agreements between USWA members and National Steel Corporation. As steel companies consolidated, Mr. Lester worked at the negotiating table to guarantee that these protections were not lost. The language he ensured in these negotiations for workplace health and safety was recognized by the Supreme Court as the standard for workers. He has extended his championing of workers' rights into negotiations with Dow Chemical, National Standard, Quanex, and DSC, Ltd.

In addition to his commitment to his fellow workers, Mr. Lester has been a vigorous citizen of Michigan and is deeply committed to improving education and health in the State of Michigan. He and his wife established the Harry E. & Mary E. Lester Scholarship Fund for Steelworker Children to provide scholarship opportunities for the children of steelworkers in District Two. He was appointed by three governors to serve on the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners and serves as a board member to many distinguished organizations, including the United Way of Michigan, the Michigan State AFL-CIO Board, the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, and the Greater Detroit-Area Health Council. Mr. Lester initiated and co-chairs the Annual Downriver Community Prayer Breakfast in Southgate, Michigan, and holds the rank of "Ambassador" for the Detroit Muslim Temple of the Shrine. Recently, Mr. Lester was granted an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humanities from Michigan State University.

Harry Lester often stood at the intersection of workers' rights and public policy. He understood that federal trade policy, and especially unfair trade practices of other nations, dramatically impacted the industry in which he worked and he was tireless in his efforts to impact change in Washington, DC. He also un-

derstood the real impact of federal policies on workers and their families when it came to retirement security, pensions and health care. He was passionate and articulate both in terms of impacting legislation, and informing his membership of the importance of those policies on their work and family life.

Mr. Speaker, I have been privileged over the years to work with Harry Lester, to observe his leadership and to call him a friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Harry Lester for his decades of tireless and effective service to our Nation's workers.

TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA IMLER

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Alyssa Imler, a teacher at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Harrison, for her 2006 Disney Teacher of the Year Award nomination.

Imler has a unique method of teaching which keeps the students engaged in learning. She was nominated for this award anonymously by one of her students. If Imler is among the 40 Teacher of the Year honorees, she will be flown to Los Angeles for a red-carpet recognition ceremony. The honorees and their principals will participate in a week long educators conference. Honorees will also receive \$10,000 while their schools will receive \$5,000.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Alyssa Imler and her 2006 Disney Teacher of the Year Award nomination. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual such as Alyssa Imler.

VIOLA GEORGIAN BALESTRERI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Viola Georgian Balestreri, who passed away on January 25, 2006 in Carmel, California, at the age of 92. Viola was born on September 19, 1913 in Brooklyn, New York to Amelia and Aniello Crispo and was the only girl among 11 brothers—a special child, indeed! After the death of her husband Vincent Balestreri, whom she married in 1938, she moved to Carmel in 1957. She taught at Junipero Serra School for many years while raising her two children, to whom she was devoted.

Viola was a strong woman who never criticized or said a harsh word about anyone. She was eternally optimistic and grateful for her family and the blessings in her life. She was a loving mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, sister and friend.

Her son, Ted Balestreri, owner of the famed Sardine Factory restaurant in Monterey, has been a good friend of mine and I grieve with him over the loss of his mother. I wish to ex-

tend my deepest sympathies to Ted and the entire Balestreri family on the loss of this beloved woman.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to Coretta Scott King, a great leader in the movement for civil and human rights on the occasion of her passing.

Known first as the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Mrs. King's commitment to the struggle for all people continued throughout her life. Attending Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, Coretta Scott King earned a Bachelor's Degree in music and education, skills she used to organize Freedom Concerts to benefit the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Serving as a delegate from Women Strike for Peace at a 1962 Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, Mrs. King demonstrated her commitment to working for peace and justice worldwide.

Following the tragic murder of her husband, Coretta Scott King committed herself to promoting Dr. King's principles of nonviolence and social justice. First, in establishing the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, which has trained tens of thousands of people in the philosophy and methods of Dr. King, she has been able to preserve and further his legacy. Second, she served as chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission and worked for the national recognition of Dr. King's birthday.

In addition to working for the recognition of her husband's legacy, Mrs. King was always a tireless advocate for the abolition of Apartheid in South Africa, women and children's rights, gay and lesbian dignity, full employment and ecological sanity. In recognition of this work, Coretta Scott King has lead goodwill missions across the globe consulting with world leaders. In addition, the American Library Association has awarded Coretta Scott King Awards to more than 175 books written or illustrated by African Americans that promote understanding and appreciation for all cultures and demonstrate commitment to equality and justice.

Surely the passing of Coretta Scott King is a great loss to this Nation and the world. Mrs. King demonstrated a resilience and commitment to the ideals of equality and justice that has been matched by few and we all owe her a debt of gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO THE SISTERS OF ST. EMMA ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Sisters of

St. Emma for their 75th anniversary this month.

Many in western Pennsylvania are familiar with the Sisters of St. Emma's years of service at Saint Vincent College and Arch abbey, where until 1987 they prepared and served thousands of meals to students, the Benedictine Brothers, and even to the Pittsburgh Steelers during their Summer Training Camps at Saint Vincent. From 1987 until the present, the Sisters of St. Emma have continued to be a vibrant part of the area by operating a thriving retreat house just outside of Greensburg, PA. At the retreat house, the Sisters prepare meals, offer hospitality, and a place for hundreds of people annually who come to Saint Emma for spiritual growth and fulfillment.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Sisters of St. Emma for their 75th anniversary. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute a dedicated community such as the Sisters of St. Emma.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUTH COTNEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and member of the community, Ms. Ruth Cotney, of Chambers County, Alabama. Ms. Cotney is a well-known and highly respected individual who has served her community, held public office, and is now completing her 50th year of employment at the Chambers County tax office.

In 1955, Ms. Cotney began her career at the Chambers County Courthouse in a time where most tax bills were written by hand. In 1979, Ms. Cotney was appointed by Governor Fob James to replace the retired tax collector. She completed the balance of the term, ran again, and won in 1984 for a 6-year term. She retired in 1991, but continues to work part-time at the tax collector's office.

I am proud to recognize Ms. Cotney today in the House, and congratulate her on her long and fulfilling career in service to the people of Chambers County. I wish her many more years of continued success and service.

SERGEANT HENRY PRENDES MEMORIAL ACT OF 2006 INCREASES PENALTIES FOR COP KILLERS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Sergeant Henry Prendes Memorial Act of 2006 today. This legislation will create a new Federal criminal offense for the killing, the attempt to kill or conspiring to kill, any public safety officer for a public agency that receives Federal funding. This would include State and local police officers, judicial officers, judicial employees, and firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, this legislation makes it a Federal crime to kill a public safety officer of any type. Under this legislation, a criminal convicted of the above charges will be punished by a fine and imprisonment for no

less than 30 years, or for life, or sentenced to death.

I have named this vitally important piece of legislation after a constituent of mine, SGT Henry Prendes. Sergeant Prendes of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, was killed in the line of duty on Wednesday, February 1, 2006.

SGT Henry Prendes joined the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department on February 26, 1991. He spent his first years patrolling the east Las Vegas neighborhood surrounding Charleston and Lamb Boulevards and was quickly promoted to Field Training Officer. On January 2, 1999, after working 1 year for the narcotics office as a detective, Henry Prendes was promoted to sergeant. As a sergeant he worked for the Crimes against Youth and Family Department, and later as Patrol Sergeant in the South West Area Command.

Sergeant Prendes was a native of Nevada and graduated from Las Vegas High School where he was vice president of his senior class and captain of the football team. He is survived by his wife Dawn and two daughters from a previous marriage, Kylee and Brooke. Sergeant Prendes, along with his family, was a devoutly religious man. He engaged in bible study at home with his wife and mentored children in his spare time. Before he died, he was in the process of building a 17-acre youth camp in Montana called, Creation Camp Jesus.

SGT Henry Prendes could be described as everyone's friend, always having a smile on his face, and always helping those in need. Some help people because they are police officers, but Henry was a police officer to help people.

Mr. Speaker, the pride I feel today in introducing this vitally important piece of legislation is overshadowed by the sorry I feel for the entire Prendes family.

INTRODUCING H.R. 4710, THE JUDICIARY RENT REFORM ACT OF 2006

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce H.R. 4710, the "Judiciary Rent Reform Act of 2006." The purpose of this legislation is to ensure the rent paid by the Federal judiciary is rationally and equitably related to the actual costs of providing their facilities.

It may shock Members to learn that this is not the case nor has it been for some time. In fact, the Federal judiciary pays the General Services Administration (GSA) hundreds of millions of dollars more each year than the actual costs of maintaining and operating buildings. Chief Justice Roberts has characterized this practice as resulting in the judiciary being used "as a profit center for GSA."

By law, GSA is authorized to establish the rent to be paid by the judiciary. GSA's rates are supposed to approximate commercially equivalent rates. Their charges are not subject to negotiation.

Since 1986, the judiciary's annual rent payments to GSA have increased from \$133 million to almost \$920 million. As a percentage of the judiciary's operating budget, these payments have climbed from 15.7 percent to 20 percent. In contrast, rent for executive branch

agencies averages less than one percent of their budgets and no department is charged more than 3 percent.

To cope with soaring GSA rent payments, the courts have been compelled to make difficult choices, including a decision over 18 months to reduce employee ranks by 1,850 positions—a full 8 percent of on board staffing levels.

Consider the irony: the staffing required by the Judiciary Branch is compromised because the Executive Branch charges our courts too much for rent.

In the absence of a swift Congressional response to redress this imbalance, there is little doubt that the continued budgetary pressures, which will result from constantly rising rental costs, will cause the loss of even more court personnel.

The administration of justice should not be compromised because our courts are denied the ability to contain their rental costs. The judiciary has taken available action to reign in these expenses, including adopting a 24-month moratorium on new construction and requesting rent relief from GSA. To date though, GSA has refused to work with the courts in any meaningful way to find a solution.

As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I believe Congress has a duty to act to ensure the fair, efficient, and equitable adjudication of all legitimate issues brought before the courts. The use of the courts as a "profit center" can no longer be tolerated.

The bill I am introducing today will put an end to this practice by replacing the "commercially-equivalent" rent calculation that GSA has used with a requirement that the courts pay only for the actual operating expenses incurred in providing space. This simple change will result in a dramatic savings in the judiciary's rent expense.

This change will also give the judiciary needed flexibility, accountability, and responsibility for balancing the requirements imposed by their capital costs, personnel, and non-salary expenses.

The courts are best positioned to know whether the administration of justice will benefit more by hiring new personnel than by constructing a new courthouse or renovating an older one. Our courts should be empowered to make the decision that is in the public interest and that is most likely to enhance their ability to adjudicate and resolve cases.

In his inaugural year-end report on the Federal judiciary, Chief Justice Roberts addressed this issue directly:

The disparity between the judiciary's rent and that of other government agencies, and between the cost to GSA of providing space and the amount charged to the judiciary, is unfair . . . [and] the judiciary must . . . find a long-term solution to the problem of ever-increasing rent payments that drain resources needed for the courts to fulfill their vital mission.

Mr. Speaker, the solution is for Congress to enact the "Judiciary Rent Reform Act of 2006," which will require the Administrator of General Services to charge the judiciary only the actual cost of providing space in federally-owned facilities or the actual costs of procuring and servicing leases in privately-owned space.

In addition to allowing the federal courts to better plan and control their budget, which will improve the delivery of judicial services to the public, this Act will improve the transparency associated with how the judiciary's funds are spent.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, which I am introducing in direct response to the plea of the Chief Justice that this issue "now warrant[s] immediate attention and action." I and the Judiciary Conference of the U.S. look forward to the House passing this legislation without delay.

TRIBUTE TO THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE McCANDLESS ROTARY CLUB

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the volunteers of the McCandless Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club of McCandless was founded in 1988, and will be holding its 10th annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner, Thursday, February 9, 2006. For the past 10 years this dinner has honored individuals who have given their time, talent and finances in support of churches and synagogues, human service agencies, fire and police departments and Ivan flood recovery. This year, however, will be the first year that blood and organ donors will be honored. The club also gives \$10,000 to various community agencies in the area and hosts a monthly bingo game for the residents of the Regency Nursing Home.

The dinner honors the commitment of McCandless residents, including: Frank and Judy Holby, organ donors; Rev. Jean Henderson, platelet donor; Marlynn Baldo, blood and platelet donor; Patricia DiClemente, organ, platelet and blood donor; John Dauer, whole blood donor; and Edmond Olszewski, bone marrow donor. The club has recently completed a shipment of computers and pharmaceuticals to Benin. Two club members, Denny and Kathy Crawford, have participated in two Polio National Immunization Days in Africa.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Pennsylvania American Water on receiving the Directors Award. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute a dedicated club such as the Rotary Club of McCandless.

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND COMPLETION OF THE MODERNIZATION PROJECT AT HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to announce to my colleagues that on February 24, 2006, Hillsdale High School, in San Mateo California, which is in my Congressional District, will be commemorating its fif-

tieth anniversary and will be celebrating the completion of a modernization project that will ensure that Hillsdale's doors are open for students for another 50 years or more.

The San Mateo Union High School district has six outstanding high schools. Nearly 6 years the citizens of San Mateo voted for a \$137.5 million bond measure to modernize these wonderful schools. Hillsdale High School determined to construct a new Student Services building as well as substantive remodeling of the library, science building, general education classrooms, the cafeteria, the theater, the auditorium, a music building, and the gym's and locker rooms. As a result of these renovations Hillsdale High School will continue to play a leading educational role in the San Mateo Union High School district.

Mr. Speaker, Hillsdale High School is truly an extraordinary learning institution. The award winning design of the school, profiled in Life Magazine when the school opened its doors 50 years ago, continues to receive praise and distinctions. Of special note is the fact that Hillsdale High School was recently recognized by the United States Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This remarkable recognition was bestowed on only 260 schools in the United States. In addition to Hillsdale's achievements in the classroom, the school's rich athletic tradition displayed in league championships and distinguished alumni playing at the collegiate and professional levels.

Mr. Speaker, the modernization and new construction at Hillsdale High School was made possible because of the amazing dedication and work demonstrated by the Board of Trustees, community leaders, parents, school staff, the public at-large, and the now-retired Superintendent Thomas C. Mohr. Without their spectacular efforts, the modernization project would not have succeeded. I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Hillsdale High School community on the successful modernization of its facility and on its 50th anniversary.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week was established in 1978. It takes place every year during the week of February 14 and it is an opportunity to salute America's veterans and ensure to them that their sacrifices for their country are not forgotten. Next week, members of my district staff will visit the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston.

They will pay tribute and honor to the brave soldiers there who were wounded in their valiant service to our country. They have made an enormous sacrifice to ensure that we all are able to live in freedom and we are indebted to them. This is the American people's chance to say thank you for that sacrifice. It is vitally important that we do not forget these defenders of freedom and do all that we can to help them along in their recovery.

I am proud to say that my staff will be bringing get well cards, and other tokens of appre-

ciation, from the students of Deerwood Elementary School in Kingwood, Texas. It is a fitting tribute, from the young children to the soldiers, who have fought to guarantee the America they inherit is as free as it is today.

The entire 2nd Congressional District of Texas says thank you to these brave men and women for their service and their sacrifice. We wish them all a full and speedy recovery.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID H. SMITH

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David H. Smith of Rio Blanco County, as the honored recipient of the Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award from the Colorado Water Congress.

The career of David H. Smith reflects his extraordinary dedication to the protection of water rights in the State of Colorado. His inspiring leadership on these very important issues is greatly appreciated by all citizens of Colorado.

Mr. Smith's passion for conservation and leadership in water issues lead to a 20-year tenure on the Colorado Water Conservation Board as well as 12 years of service as Rio Blanco County's director on the Colorado River Water Conservation Board. Mr. Smith's commitment to his community extends beyond water issues to service on the county planning commission and the local school board. Mr. Smith himself is a rancher in the region and has devoted his life to the protection and maintenance of this lifestyle.

Family and friends have been quick to praise Mr. Smith as someone who has exemplified genuine concern for the water rights of the citizens of Colorado. Mr. Smith displayed his resolve during the oil-shale boom in the 1970s and 1980s when he guaranteed the preservation of property and water rights in Western Colorado. Later, during the 2002 drought, Mr. Smith was instrumental in negotiating a water-sharing plan for White River Valley ranchers and farmers.

Even with all his public service, Mr. Smith maintains a strong family life, having been married to his wife Sue Ann for 53 years with two sons and a daughter.

Mr. Smith's story is one of compassion and commitment, not only for the protection of the rights of the ranchers and farmers in his region but also for the maintenance of a lifestyle learned from his great-grandfather, an immigrant from Scotland who introduced Mr. Smith to the ideas of irrigation. A life of service and leadership, of achievement and ambition, Mr. Smith's accomplishment is one that deserves recognition and respect by all citizens of Colorado who have benefited from his devotion.

It is a tremendous honor to stand today and publicly recognize Mr. David H. Smith for his many contributions to the community. It is my privilege to extend congratulations to Mr. Smith for the receipt of the Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award.

A SALUTE TO HAM RADIO
OPERATORS**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of American citizens who are members of the Amateur Radio Relay League, known as HAM radio operators. Citizens throughout America dedicated to this hobby—a hobby that some people consider old fashioned or obsolete—were true heroes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as they were often the only line of communication available into the storm ravaged areas.

Amateur radio operators are often overlooked in favor of flashier means of communication. As communities across the gulf coast and America learned this year, technology can be highly vulnerable. HAM radios, entirely self-contained transmitters, require no cell towers or satellites, simply a battery and a strip of wire as an antenna.

Just as after major earthquakes, tornadoes, and the terrorist attacks of 9/11, HAM operators around the country received an alert to stand by their radios to listen for calls for assistance. Following Hurricane Katrina, when cell phones and e-mail were useless, a HAM operator located in Connecticut alerted authorities about a woman trapped for 4 days without food or water and a Coast Guard Auxiliary in Cleveland arranged for a medevac for a woman in labor in New Orleans. These are just a few examples of the many lives that were saved with the critical intervention of HAM operators throughout the country.

Now more than ever, I am proud to be a licensed amateur radio operator. It is important to realize that every HAM radio operator in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a volunteer. This year, when disaster struck, hundreds of HAMS moved to the gulf coast to help in every way they could. Every one of which did so on a volunteer basis and their only goal was to assist in what became one of the worst natural disasters in America.

The dedication displayed by HAM radio operators in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina sets a tremendous example for us all. The people whose lives were rescued as a result of the tireless dedication of HAM radio operators will forever be grateful to these selfless public servants.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA
SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Coretta Scott King, who, sadly, passed away last week at the age of 78.

Mrs. King will be greatly missed and fondly remembered as a remarkable woman who passionately worked with her husband, Martin Luther King, Jr., in America's nonviolent struggle for equal rights and who pursued the vi-

sion of equality and justice long after his tragic death in 1968. While I and constituents throughout my district, including those in Richmond, California, mourn her loss we remember her achievements, her courage, and what she symbolized to people across the country and throughout the world.

While she was Dr. King's partner in the struggle for equal rights, Coretta Scott King was also a civil rights activist in her own right. Dr. King once said, "I wish I could say . . . that I led her down this path. But I must say we went down it together, because she was as actively involved and concerned when we met as she is now."

An inspirational woman to so many already, Mrs. King will remain a role model for generations to come.

When her husband's fight for equality was cut short by the brutal shot of bigotry and hatred, Mrs. King's fight had only just begun. And now with her death, we face the same question she faced so many years ago. President Clinton eloquently spoke about this question yesterday at Mrs. King's funeral service in Atlanta when he said,

. . . the most important day in her life for everyone of us here at this moment in this church, except when she embraced her faith, the next most important day was April 5, 1968, the day after her husband was killed. She had to decide, "What am I going to do with the rest of my life?" We would have all forgiven her, even honored her if she said, "I have stumbled on enough stony roads. I have been beaten by enough bitter rods. I have endured enough dangers, toils and snares. I'm going home and raising my kids. I wish you all well." None of us, nobody could have condemned that decision. But instead, she went to Memphis—the scene of the worst nightmare of her life—and led that march for those poor hard-working garbage workers that her husband [advocated for]. Now, that's the most important thing for us. Because what really matters if you believe all this stuff we've been saying is, "What are we going to do with the rest of our lives?"

Indeed, she went on to work so hard for all of us. In addition to her efforts to build the Martin Luther King memorial in Atlanta to establishing a national holiday in her husband's memory, Coretta Scott King worked tirelessly so that her husband's struggle, and the struggle of the millions of Americans who worked with him and shared his vision to bring equality to all people, was never forgotten.

She took upon herself the responsibility of keeping alive Dr. King's civil rights legacy but also found her own causes. She advocated equality for all. She became active with the National Organization for Women and said, "Women, if the soul of the Nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul." In 2000 she spoke at a fundraiser sponsored by the Metropolitan Community Church, a predominantly gay denomination in San Francisco, where she gave a powerful speech expressing that "until everybody has equality; no one has equality. We can't just be for civil rights of one group."

The King family has a strong history with the community in Richmond, CA.

Mrs. King's speech in San Francisco inspired Jerrold Hatchett of Richmond to form the National Brotherhood Alliance, a non-profit organization that serves as a collaborative of business, community, religious, and grassroots organizations to mentor youth and address community issues.

Richmond Mayor Irma Anderson remembers attending Union Methodist Church in Boston with the Kings. Her husband, Rev. Booker T. Anderson, who went on to become a Richmond city councilman, attended Boston University School of Theology with Dr. King. Their relationship was one of the reasons Dr. King stopped in Richmond to meet with local leaders when he visited northern California in 1961. Mayor Anderson remembers Mrs. King as being loyal to her husband and family and supportive of the civil rights movement, and she had a beautiful singing voice.

Mayor Anderson said that, "Mrs. King's singing voice changed after her husband was murdered." It, however, did not alter her passion for justice and she continued her struggle against injustice.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I rise to acknowledge the loss of a great woman, a mother, a friend to all and a hero. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the King family and their friends in this difficult time.

America owes the entire King family an enormous debt of gratitude for teaching all Americans the meaning of dignity, patriotism and justice. This Congress, and this nation, must not let down Dr. King down. We must not let Mrs. King down. We must pursue their vision of justice and freedom as vigilantly today as ever before and preserve the greatness of America for our children and our children's children.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA
SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 655, honoring the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. It is with great respect and a heavy heart that I pay tribute to the life of a woman admired by so many Americans.

On January 31, 2006, God summoned home one of His most dedicated activists in the fight for equal rights and social justice. It seems like only yesterday that Mrs. King joined her husband, the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., to fight for equality for all Americans.

While the country mourned the loss of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mrs. King picked up the torch and continued the fight for social justice, at the same time caring for their four children: Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott, and Bernie Albertine. In doing so, she worked tirelessly on multi-national disarmament treaties, anti-poverty efforts in the U.S., and opposition to apartheid in South Africa. Later, in 1985, she initiated the creation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute to ensure that future generations of leaders carry on Rev. King's dream of peace and social justice. It is fitting that we honor her today not far from where she led several hundred-thousand people to commemorate her husband's historic march on our Nation's Capital.

Because of the Reverend and Mrs. King's hard work and many sacrifices throughout the

years, millions of Americans have greater opportunities today. Without their efforts, people like me might not have the opportunity to serve in the House of Representatives today.

While the loss of Mrs. Coretta Scott King brings great sadness, it brings a sense of peace knowing that she will be reunited with her husband the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and that their legacy will flourish for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE BULLETIN OF
THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as we face a world troubled by nuclear proliferation, weapons of mass destruction, potential pandemics, terrorism, space-based weaponry, and our own concern about our nation's ability to maintain its competitiveness in a changing world, it is important that we consider this resolution commending the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists on the 60th year of its publication, whose mission to educate citizens and raise awareness on global security news and analysis as well as the appropriate roles of nuclear technology. That is why today I am introducing along with the Gentlemen from Massachusetts, Representative EDWARD MARKEY, a resolution commending the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists for its 60 years of service to our nation and to the world.

Sixty years ago, a group of Manhattan Project scientists, who worked to create the first nuclear bombs on the mesas of Los Alamos, New Mexico, published the first issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, to translate the realities made possible by the atomic bomb. Members of this early group include Hans Bethe, Albert Einstein, and J. Robert Oppenheimer, and the Bulletin continues to bring together some of the best minds in science and global security to provide unbiased, non-technical yet scientifically sound information critical to our survival today.

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists additionally created a visual representation of the humanity's potential for global destruction. It is the Doomsday Clock, ticking towards midnight, with midnight representing doomsday. The movement of the clock's hand is determined by the Bulletin's Board of Directors and Sponsors, a group of individuals who have worked on this issue for decades and include Nobel Prize winners, analysts, and others who have served in policy making decisions in both Democratic and Republican administrations.

The Doomsday Clock has moved forward and back 17 times in its 58 years of existence. Its last move was on February 27, 2002, and the clock now resides at 7 minutes to midnight, which is where the clock debuted in 1947.

The "Keepers of the Clock" stated on this last move, "Moving the clock's hands at this time reflects our growing concern that the international community has hit the 'snooze' button rather than respond to the alarm."

It is now time to start waking up, and we take the lead in making the world safer, cleaner, and sustainable for our children, our grandchildren, and the generations to follow. This is

the legacy that we must strive for in each action that we take.

HONORING THE WINNERS OF
DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS'
POSTER AND ESSAY CONTEST IN
REMEMBRANCE OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING JR. AND ROSA
PARKS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those students from Deptford Township schools who participated in a contest to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks on January 11, 2006. The way in which these students portrayed their thoughts on Dr. King and Ms. Parks was touching and memorable.

During this contest, students were given the opportunity to express their thoughts on these important historical figures by creating a poster or writing an essay highlighting memorable events in the lives of these two heroic Americans. The contest corresponded with the annual celebration of Dr. King. The students whose essays and posters won are: Scott Medes, Andrea Akins, Lauren Perry, Rachel Hajna, Jimmy Kunkle, Sheena Williams, Sara Duffy, Zachary Kummer, Ashley Duffy, Danielle Hogan, Ronald Grace, Danika Atkinson, Jordan Johnson, Michael Baney, Justina Dougherty, Jared Field, Ann Mary Tullio, Nicholas Eisen, Madelyn Elliot and Sean Clason. Their works showed exceptional thought and creativity.

We have seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina that Dr. King's and Mrs. Parks' message of justice for all people is still as important today as it was in the 1950's and 1960's. Although it disproportionately affected people of color, Hurricane Katrina affected anyone young enough, old enough or poor enough to be left behind. The students that participated in this contest embodied Dr. King's and Mrs. Parks' message and are truly an inspiration to all citizens of the United States of America.

The following are five of the winning essays:

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

(By Zachary Kummer, Grade 6)

As I sit in my classroom and look around, I see students of many different races. We are all here to learn and everyone has the same opportunity to get a good education. The teacher treats us all the same, and we use the same books, desks, fountains, and lavatories. All the students are together in the same classroom without any discrimination by race or religion. If Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were alive today, he would see his dream fulfilled in my classroom.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a minister who believed in equality for all. He thought that the Constitution of the United States was meant for all people. His famous speech of "I Have a Dream" said that he dreamed of a time when people of all races and religions would be treated the same. Dr. King was influenced by many people. His grandfather, his father, Abraham Lincoln, and Rosa Parks were some of these people who had an influence on him.

Dr. King admired the courage Rosa Parks showed in her refusal to give up her seat on a bus. He respected her non-violent protest.

Rosa Parks' action was one of the things that led to the boycott of the buses by people of color. Dr. King became involved in this peaceful action and showed that there is power when people join together in a protest.

Not only has the United States changed because of Dr. King, but the rest of the world has been influenced by his peaceful ways to bring about change in laws to give equality to all people. People of color in South Africa were influenced by Dr. King and have changed the apartheid laws.

In conclusion, the influence of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks has greatly changed the rights of all people, especially minorities, from separation and discrimination to equality in all parts of our lives.

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

(By Andrea Akins, Grade 4)

Dr. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks made a difference. For example, Dr. King was born Jan. 16, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He always was thinking about solutions to solve racial prejudice. The civil rights bill ended discrimination of black Americans in 1964. One day Dr. King was shot and died.

In addition, Rosa Parks was born Feb. 4, 1913 in Alabama and was married sometime in 1932. She worked to help a lot of black people. White people always pushed her around and she was tired of it. One day Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus. She was arrested and put in jail. A boycott was passed. Mr. Nixon and Dr. King got lawyers to take Rosa's case to court. The boycott worked.

Additionally, Rosa Parks and Dr. King had a lot in common. One thing they had in common was the bus boycott. Another thing they had in common was segregation. Of course they both wanted fairness.

In conclusion, Dr. King and Rosa Parks helped make a difference. They made a difference because they both wanted fairness. They helped blacks with problems and they made laws right. They made a difference.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND ROSA PARKS—
"MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE"

(By Rachel Hajna)

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. His parents named him Michael at first, but later changed it to Martin Luther, which was his father's name. Martin had an older sister and a younger brother. Their mother always told them how special and wonderful they were. The King family was very religious.

Martin was best friends with a white boy, but when they started school the friend's Dad said they couldn't play anymore because Martin was black. The boys both cried.

Martin learned more about segregation as he got older. There were a lot of things that the black people were not allowed to do. They were not allowed to play on the beach or in the parks, they were not allowed to vote, and they could not live where they wanted. Martin knew this was unfair.

Martin graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1944. He was so smart that he skipped ninth and twelfth grades. He enrolled at Morehouse College when he was 15 years old. He also began preaching at Ebenezer Baptist Church where his father was the pastor and he became Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. on February 25, 1948 when he was 19 years old.

Martin met Coretta Scott while attending Boston University. They were married on June 18, 1953 in Marion, Alabama. Martin became Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1955 after receiving his Ph.D. from Boston University.

Dr. King was one of the leaders of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This was a huge success. Dr. King and other black leaders

told the black people not to ride the buses. They did this because they learned that a woman named Rosa Parks was arrested and sent to jail on December 1, 1955 because she would not give up her bus seat to a white man. On November 13, 1956 the Supreme Court ruled that it was against the law to make black people sit at the back of the buses in Montgomery, Alabama. Now they could sit wherever they wanted.

Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. She grew up on a small farm with her brother, mother and grandparents. In 1932 she married barber and civil rights activist, Raymond Parks. Over the years, Rosa Parks received many awards and honors, including the Medal of Freedom Award, presented by President Clinton in 1996. Rosa Parks died recently on October 25, 2005 at the age of 92.

The boycott was the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement in America. On August 28, 1963 Dr. King led the March on Washington. This is where he gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. He wanted black and white people to live together in peace in America. In 1964 he received Time magazine's "Man of the Year" award. On July 2, 1964 President Johnson signed the Civil Rights bill into law, which meant that the black people could go wherever they wanted.

On December 10, 1964 Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize, which is one of the greatest honors any man can win. He was only 35 years old when he won the award making him youngest person to receive it.

On April 4, 1968 Dr. King went to Memphis, Tennessee to lead a march to help sanitation workers. He was shot and killed on this day. People all over the world wept. Dr. King made a difference by making black and white people get along.

I am very glad that Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks made a difference in our world.

HOW MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CHANGED THE WORLD

(By Lauren Perry, Grade 4)

Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks changed the world from being prejudice forever.

Little did the community of Sweet Auburn, Atlanta, Georgia know that on the day of January 15, 1929, baby Martin Luther King Jr. would change the world. As Martin got older, everybody said that the last name King would suit him good.

Martin Luther King had many strong beliefs. He believed in non-segregation. Because of the time, many Americans in the South were separating the whites from the blacks. His other belief was non-violence. He solved many problems non-violently.

His parents always told him to have pride in himself. He always believed that having pride in yourself could take you various places. Believing everyone was equal and being free was the one thing that he would fight for.

He argued many times for the freedom of African Americans to go where they wanted to go and so on and so forth. But he always protested peacefully. He protested to put a stop to racial prejudice. He along with Rosa Parks boycotted many things like being prejudice.

Both African Americans thought segregation and being prejudice was injustice. Rosa Parks got arrested for, what I think, is very unfair. She got arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man.

After that incident, Martin Luther King Jr. knew something had to be done. Martin did many speeches, marches, and protests to bring attention to all Americans on what was going on.

On August 28, 1963 he made the one of the most memorable speeches in history. "I Have a Dream" was his speech. He dreamed that everyone would think that everyone was "brothers and sisters."

After his speech, a law was formed that no one could be prejudice or segregate. Many people's lives were changed by King's memorable speech. But things were about to change for him.

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was standing on a hotel balcony talking to a friend, and suddenly . . . Boom! Martin Luther King Jr., at the age of 54, was shot and killed.

People all over the world were upset, but he will be remembered.

So, because of Martin Luther King Jr.'s pride and strength, he was shot and killed. From his strong non-violent beliefs, no segregation or being prejudice is ruining the world today.

TWO AMAZING LEADERS

(By Jimmy Kunkle, Grade 5)

Our world would be different if it weren't for two very brave people. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks both fought for equal rights. Rosa Parks was born in 1913, and was very determined. She made a big difference because on December 1, 1955, she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, and she was put in jail. This act determined many people and one of them was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a very important and determined man. He led protests, marches, boycotts and all of his hard work won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. On August 28, 1963, Martin made his "I Have a Dream" Speech. He dreamed that all mankind would be treated equally and that there would be no more violence. On April 4, 1968, he was shot and killed, but we still remember him, and we will never forget him.

So now you can see that two people can make a difference, and they did! They did not only make a difference, but they brought our world together. So that's how two unforgettable people made a world of difference, by not using violence.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN: A COMMUNITY TREASURE AND LEGEND IN HER OWN TIME

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, rarely has a single person left so great a mark on a community as Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin.

When Sister Jean, as she is universally known, assumed the presidency of Barry College in 1981, it was a small all-girls institution. When she left nearly 25 years later, it was Barry University, a 9,000 student co-ed institution of higher learning, complete with a law school and a national reputation for excellence.

However, Sister Jean's achievements, as great as they are, pale when compared to the power of her personality and extraordinary impact she has had on virtually everyone she meets.

Last fall, South Florida CEO magazine did a profile of Sister Jean which I think captures some of the spirit of this remarkable woman, and I would like to share it with my colleagues.

THE NUN ON THE RUN

It is not every day you meet a nun whose license tag reads "Hugs 1" and whose sentences are punctuated with an endearing "honey." But then again, there is only one Sister Jeanne Marie O'Laughlin.

A few hugs here and a few "honeys" there—along with bulldog tenacity and a refusal to compromise her convictions—have helped O'Laughlin forge bonds with everyone from religious figures to football stars to dignitaries. Her new office at Barry University, where she recently became chancellor, is proof. The corridor is wallpapered with framed photos of O'Laughlin with the pope, presidents, sports stars and scores of other influential people.

About 100 plaques, keys to cities and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's "Sand in My Shoes" award overwhelm glass-enclosed display cases. O'Laughlin says it was tough to choose from the hundreds she received during her 23-year tenure as president of Barry University.

"They just delivered the furniture today. You are my first external guest, honey," O'Laughlin, 76, says in a grandmotherly tone as she points out her private prayer closet. She proudly displays her collection of icons—artistic representations of sanctified Christians that are an integral part of worship in the Catholic faith. Directing attention to an icon of "Jesus the Teacher," O'Laughlin reveals. "With this one I look at the world through his eyes and see the humanity of children." She has a special place in her heart for children of all ages, perhaps because her own childhood, including World War II years spent in Detroit, was strained.

In 1935, when O'Laughlin was barely 6 years old, her mother died in childbirth. Her family became a single-parent household long before it was a societal norm. She describes her father, a draftsman at the Dodge car factory in Detroit, as a "good old Irish dad" who prayed the rosary every day and read the Bible to his family on Sundays. Her childhood memories are a mixture of pain, love and poverty.

"At times you had to pretty well fend for yourself. So maybe my creativity in fundraising came out of that," O'Laughlin laughs now. "But my core values came from my father's training and education. Our family always cared for each other and loved one another. Sharing became an integral part of what we did. My dad cared. He even took in my mother's two brothers and two sisters when they got married. So I had a model even though our family was poor and motherless. I learned that family was important."

O'Laughlin's mother lived on in her imagination, stoked by her Aunt Edna's frequent recounting of stories. One tale in particular would forever direct the course of O'Laughlin's life—and arouse her passion for education.

"Aunt Edna told me that my mother valued education and that her whole desire when she died at age 29 was that her children would be educated. My dad promised her on her deathbed that we would be, and we all got college educations," O'Laughlin solemnly shares. "Missing a mother made me yearn to protect other mothers and babies."

Detroit left its impression, too, and an early experience with racism there, says O'Laughlin, led her to a lifetime of social action.

One day when she was 13 years old, a streetcar O'Laughlin was riding in suddenly jolted. Two black children fell into her lap, and she embraced them during the rest of the journey. To her surprise, when she stepped off the streetcar, a white man spit on her.

"I asked my dad why that man spit on me," recalls O'Laughlin, still obviously disturbed by the decades-old event. "He told me

it was prejudice. I asked him what caused prejudice. He told me it was ignorance. I asked him how you get rid of ignorance. He said education."

The experience left O'Laughlin with a burning desire to help people—all people, and it eventually led her down the path towards joining the Dominican order of nuns. Three years later, she joined the Adrian (Mich.) Dominican Sisters, an international congregation of more than 970 vowed religious women whose roots go back to St. Dominic during the 13th century.

O'Laughlin began professing her first vows at age 17. That initial step towards becoming nun was followed by several years of exploration and training, until she became a permanent member of the order of the Dominican Sisters of Adrian. O'Laughlin took her final vows when she was 21—lying flat on her back in the midst of a battle with respiratory illness so severe her father feared it was her last breath.

After taking her final vows as a nun, O'Laughlin's next priority was getting the education that her mother had wanted for her. She earned a bachelor's degree and began her teaching career in the 1950s. She taught throughout Michigan at St. Agnes in Iron River, Detroit's Dominican High and Dearborn's St. Alphonsus. After she earned a master's degree in biology, the Archdiocese of Tucson, Ariz. hired her as a supervisor of schools. Even then, she continued to attend school, earning a doctorate in education from the University of Arizona.

A watershed moment in O'Laughlin's life was Pope John XXIII's issuance of the Vatican II documents between 1962 and 1965, which made several reforms to the Catholic church. Among the reforms were options for nuns to choose not to wear a habit, the traditional head covering and garment worn for centuries, and to have the choice of returning to their baptismal names or keeping their religious name. That is when O'Laughlin chose to exchange her religious name of Sister John Anthony for her baptismal name, and became Sister Jeanne Marie.

Shortly thereafter, in the late 1960s, O'Laughlin was appointed superintendent of the Adrian Dominican Independent School System, overseeing schools in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and California. The administrative position left her with the experience she would later need to build a thriving university.

"I learned a great deal about diversity during that time because I worked with Indians [Native Americans] and Hispanics. I gained a great respect for various cultures. I learned to look at sameness instead of differences," O'Laughlin says.

Along with her development as an administrator, O'Laughlin continued to evolve her concept of being a woman in the religious order. By 1970, she shed her habit, after examining the rationale of wearing it in light of Vatican II's redefining of nuns as members of the laity and not of the clergy. O'Laughlin says it seemed logical, in that light, for her to dress like the laity. Her sister helped her pick out clothes, which included the fashion of the day.

While today O'Laughlin wears business suits with sophisticated style, she says at the time it was like going from adolescence to menopause in 10 minutes as she began to understand what it meant to be a woman.

"All of a sudden my identity was not neuter. I had to worry about hair and clothing. It was a whole new experience for me. I had no idea how to dress," O'Laughlin says. "I had to learn the things most women learned in the normal maturation process from girl to woman."

She also further reexamined her relationships with non-clergy. "It was always very

easy to define in the habit. I just kept my place and my distance," she says. "As part of the laity, I had to begin relating to the laity on their level as who I was as a woman."

As her career progressed, O'Laughlin became the executive assistant to the president at St. Louis University in St. Louis and also spent time as an adjunct faculty member at the University of San Francisco and Siena Heights College in Adrian before assuming the presidency at Miami Shores-based Barry University in 1981.

TRANSFORMING BARRY

When O'Laughlin first took the helm at Barry, it was a small all-girls college. When she retired in June 2005, it was a 9,000-student co-ed university with a law school, an athletics program, and a \$22 million endowment.

After dropping to her knees and dedicating the school to "the Lord"—saying, she recalls, that it was his institution and he had to save it and develop it because she couldn't do it with her own strength—she set out to instill what she calls the "midnight shakes." Her goal was for Barry's mission to be so clear in the minds of the staff that if she suddenly awakened them at midnight they could recite it, nearly in their sleep.

The mission was (and still is) to offer students a quality education, assure a religious dimension to that education, offer a caring environment and provide community service. O'Laughlin saw the biggest challenge to fulfilling that mission and building Barry into Florida's fourth-largest private university was finances.

"It's easy to have dreams and visions, but you need the resources to fulfill those dreams and visions. The most awful thing was worrying at night about the people who worked here getting paid: their mortgages, their car payments, their children," O'Laughlin recalls. "When I got here the payroll was about \$250,000 every two weeks and then it got up to \$2.5 million every two weeks. The greatest challenge to me is to try to reward and keep the people who shared this mission and ministry with us."

O'Laughlin embarked on an exuberant fundraising campaign, often using the sheer force of her personality to fulfill what had become a true mission for her. In fact, some have described her as a cross between P.T. Barnum and Mother Theresa because of her unusual fundraising efforts, which included a lot of arm-twisting and the acceptance of a dare or two.

There was the time she took a \$2 million dare to learn ballroom dancing. O'Laughlin became the first Dominican nun to debut at the US Ballroom Championships, wearing a floor-length royal blue gown. She donned a feather boa and white satin gown on a millionaire's yacht and sang "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" for a \$1.5 million donation.

O'Laughlin's 16-hour days were not only spent building Barry University, but also building the community. In 1987, when Boynton Beach-based community radio station WXEL was plagued with personnel problems, plummeting membership and donations—even a lightning strike on its transmitter, the station turned to Barry University for help, and O'Laughlin led the university's takeover of the station.

Talk of turning the community station over to a Catholic school drew its critics, but those voices were muted when O'Laughlin herself spearheaded the move to wash away the station's \$2.5 million debt with the help of a single donor: Dwayne O. Andreas, retired chairman of agricultural giant Archer Daniels Midland Co. Andreas had donated the money to Barry at the urging of his wife, an alumnus. O'Laughlin asked Andreas if she could use it to save the radio station and he agreed.

O'Laughlin hired Jerry Carr, a broadcasting veteran and turnaround expert who had helped revive Miami's Channel 33 and Paxson television stations. Carr credits O'Laughlin with single-handedly rescuing WXEL from bankruptcy. Many didn't believe O'Laughlin could keep a Catholic agenda out of the station's programming, but Carr says she never told him what to air. In fact, Carr even ran a Planned Parenthood advertising campaign, a taboo subject in the Catholic church.

"I did not even have to ask Sister Jeanne for permission because I knew her heart was to do whatever was necessary to serve the community in a non-sectarian role," Carr recalls. "She always told me I should not do anything other than what was expected in the world of broadcasting. She was the greatest boss I ever had and the most wonderful lady I've ever met in my life." WXEL rebounded and revenues skyrocketed. When Barry took over, the station's net value was \$354,573. It was valued at \$5.93 million when O'Laughlin handed over the chair of the station to Sister Linda Bevilacqua.

O'Laughlin smiles when she talks about WXEL, but admits it wasn't quite a dream come true in every respect. "My dream was to use the radio station as an instrument to increase access to education in the community," she says. "We just didn't have the resources. But God used me as an instrument to save it, and if that's all he wanted and all he wrote, then that's OK. It's a huge success. I am proud of that."

In 1999, O'Laughlin oversaw the launch of Barry's law school in Orlando. She battled for three years to gain accreditation from the American Bar Association (ABA). Barry law professor Stanley M. Talcott, who was dean during the battle, says he will always remember O'Laughlin's determination.

"I watched Sister Jeanne as she advocated for the law school. I found her to be extraordinarily effective, well-informed, and just powerful," he says.

CHANGING THE MEANING OF "NUN"

O'Laughlin has never taken the easy path, and her life has been tinged with controversy since the Detroit streetcar incident. She proudly calls herself "the nun on the run" because she is constantly on the go and knows she has helped quash some stereotypes about Catholic religious women and women in general—things she never intended to do. As she sees it, she was just following her faith.

In a time when nuns did not typically fraternize with political potentates and influential business leaders, O'Laughlin was the first woman on Miami's influential Orange Bowl Committee and the Non-Group, an informal fraternity of local power brokers. She has served on countless boards and committees and has been urged to run for political office.

Never afraid of being outspoken, O'Laughlin has worked to do more than educate her students. She has labored to fight drug abuse, feed the homeless, assist immigrants and protect children.

"We have to understand the dignity and beauty of each human being, even though we don't agree with them because of a different tradition or history," says O'Laughlin, who has also fostered the most diverse enrollment in Barry's history, with 47 percent of its students identified as black or Latino.

Among her many exploits, O'Laughlin took responsibility for 300 Haitian immigrants when they were released from the Krome Detention Center in 1982 and placed with sponsors who provided them with food, housing, and employment; took in Romanian detainees; helped get residency for an Iranian couple and their children; and found a home for a Chinese baby.

Certainly O'Laughlin's most controversial engagement was her role in 2000's Elian Gonzalez saga. Moved by the little boy whose mother had died while they were fleeing Cuba by raft to the US, she initially acted as a neutral mediator, hosting meetings between the boy's Miami relatives and his Cuban grandmothers in their tug-of-war for custody. Hers was an unpopular position that spawned death threats, bomb threats, and plenty of hate mail.

Then, suddenly, the neutral nun became an ardent advocate for the Miami relatives, urging the government to allow Elian to stay in the US. O'Laughlin says her emotions included fear, compassion, and rejection during a period she describes as one of the most difficult in her life, but insists her faith got her through.

"When I went to bed at night, I had to tell the Lord it was in his hands, and, 'If I offended, I ask pardon. If I haven't, I sure hope you'll help me the next day,'" O'Laughlin reveals. "When I talked to [former Attorney General] Janet Reno about Elian after it was over, she quoted Truman. She said we were both searching for the truth."

Generally, O'Laughlin's disarming manner has been key to her success in helping people, say those who have worked closely with her.

"With the 'honey' here and the 'honey' there, she gets a lot of things accomplished," says Leslie Pantin Jr., chairman of Barry's board of trustees. "She continues to instill in Barry a unique, caring environment while being involved in every major cause we've had in South Florida, from the airport to rebuilding after Hurricane Andrew to the fight against drugs, and of course the Elian Gonzalez position."

O'Laughlin may be loathe to admit it, but one of her toughest fights was her personal battle with lung cancer. She underwent two lung cancer surgeries in the past few years (she never smoked) but has hardly slowed down. After stepping down as Barry's president last summer to allow a new face with a new perspective to take the university to the next level, she continued to focus on education, albeit with a slightly different twist. O'Laughlin's mission now is to teach women how to open universities in developing countries.

"It would be really great if the Lord would let me, before I turn up my toes, play a role in getting schools started and I don't care at what level—because we'll never have peace, we'll never have a legitimate fight against poverty, unless we have education," she says.

In her quasi-retired life, O'Laughlin remains involved in various South Florida organizations, and has faith that the region will become a model that the whole world will envy.

"South Florida has all right ingredients: good people, an embracing climate, and welcoming shores," O'Laughlin says. "My vision and hope is that we continue to open our arms and caress our people and energize them to create a greater state and a greater South Florida by giving their gifts back to this great place."

TRIBUTE TO WILFRED "MICKYE" JOHNSON

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an Iowan who serves as a great

community leader and role model for youth, Wilfred "Mickye" Johnson of Cedar Falls.

A native of eastern Iowa, Mickye has worked with the Classic Upward Bound Program at the University of Northern Iowa since 1988, and has been its director since 1994. Through his work, Mickye has helped countless students attend college and receive high-level academic instruction during their high school years.

In addition to his duties with the Upward Bound program, Mickye has had a number of volunteer roles with various groups, including the Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans, the Iowa Community Health Leadership Institute, the Waterloo Community Development Board, the Iowa Child Support Advisory Committee, and the Methodist Church Administrative Council. Additionally, he has worked to promote business opportunities and community involvement for African-American professionals and leaders in the Cedar Valley community in Iowa.

Mickye's work on behalf of young people extends beyond the classroom. For seven years now he has been a featured speaker for my Youth Summit, which brings together students from all over eastern Iowa to learn about leadership, education, and teamwork. Mickye has served as a motivational speaker at this event, and he always gives a challenging and productive message to the students in attendance. He has often used the humor of a simple lemon as a prop to impress upon his students the importance of life skills and character education to improve their lives.

Mickye received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Northern Iowa, and also holds a Masters of Education Degree. A believer in lifelong learning, he is also pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Northern Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mickye Johnson for his good work. His service and leadership in Iowa make him a role model for any believer in education and community service.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE REAUME

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mike Reaume for his dedication and commitment to improving the community of Corona, California. On January 14, 2006, the Corona Chamber of Commerce recognized Mike for serving as the chairman of the board for the chamber during 2005.

After joining the Corona Chamber in 1999, Mike quickly became an active member of various chamber committees. His involvement included work with the Website, Ambassadors, and Corona Night with the Angels Committees. While serving on the chamber's board of directors, Mike was elected as vice president, chairman-elect, and, most recently, chairman of the board. In addition to his dedication to the chamber, Mike owns an insurance brokerage firm, Reaume Insurance Services, which specializes in employee benefits for employers and individuals.

During Mike's term as chairman, the chamber continued to grow in membership and de-

velop new strategies to strengthen the relationships within the business community. The chamber exceeded the goals it set for the year by increasing membership up to nearly 1,150 members representing over 35,000 jobs in the region. Furthermore, the new members made an immediate impact by noticeably increasing the participation levels and attendance at chamber events.

Community-based organizations, like chambers of commerce, rely extensively on committed and dynamic individuals who take the initiative to address important issues facing their community. Mike's dedicated service epitomizes the selfless, hard-working spirit that is the backbone of communities throughout our great nation. The Corona Chamber and the community of Corona are significantly better off thanks to Mike's tireless efforts.

I want to express my appreciation for Mike's tremendous contributions on behalf of our entire community and congratulate him on the tremendous leadership he displayed as chairman of the board.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MAYOR WILLIAM J. COOK

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mayor William "Billy Joe" J. Cook of Camden, Arkansas who died Friday, December 16, 2005 at the age of 80.

A Navy veteran, Mayor Cook attended Arkansas Teachers College in Conway where he obtained a dual degree in business and mathematics. Working for ten years as a salesman for Burroughs Business Machines in Little Rock, Pine Bluff, and El Dorado, Mayor Cook decided to go into business with his father as a distributor of Texaco products in Camden.

No stranger to public service and remembered for his utmost integrity, Mayor Cook served on the Camden City Council for 7 years and as mayor of Camden for 2 years. In his free time, Mayor Cook enjoyed spending time outdoors tending to his garden and raising Tennessee Walking horses.

My heartfelt condolences go out to Mayor Cook's wife, Helen Lynch Cook; his daughter, Cindy Cook Tittle; and his sister, Weegie Watts. While Mayor Cook may no longer be with us, his legacy and his spirit will always live on in all the lives he touched.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF SANJNA VIJAYA PANDIT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Rahul and Lavannya Pandit of Houston, Texas, on the birth of their new baby daughter. Sanjna Vijaya Pandit was born on January 12, 2006, at 2:20 a.m., weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Sanjna has been born into a loving home, where she will

be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE WEEKS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor George Weeks, who is retiring as a political columnist from The Detroit News, where he has written for over 20 years. George has been the premiere political columnist for Michigan for over two decades.

George Weeks was born in 1932 in Traverse City, MI. A graduate of Traverse City High School in 1950, Weeks stayed close to home, earning his undergraduate degree in journalism from Michigan State University just 4 years later.

George Weeks spent the first 15 years of his journalism career at United Press International, working as a Lansing staff correspondent and later Bureau chief, Detroit Bureau radio and news editor, diplomatic correspondent, and Washington foreign editor. He also entered public service as press secretary, special counsel, and executive secretary for Michigan Governor William G. Milliken, who later remarked of Weeks's character and credibility as the chief reason Weeks was able to seamlessly move from journalism to public service and back.

In 1981, Weeks resumed his studies as a Kennedy Fellow at the prestigious Harvard University Institute of Politics. However, Weeks's love for on-the-record journalism brought him back to print as a political columnist for the Detroit News in 1983, where he remained until his retirement. During that time he freelanced many articles and has written several books on Michigan. Weeks was honored for his 40 years as journalist, historian, and public servant with a well-deserved place in the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, for over 20 years, George Weeks brought a keen eye, a sharp wit and a unique perspective to Michigan and national politics. His work will be greatly missed by the people of Michigan.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF GEORGE WEEKS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, George Weeks, on the occasion of his retirement from the Detroit News after 22 years of distinguished service.

A long-time Michigan resident, George graduated from Traverse City High School in 1950. He then earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in 1954. In 1981, George returned to the academic world at the Harvard University Institute of Politics as a Kennedy Fellow.

George began his journalism career at United Press International in 1954. During his

15 years there his duties included Lansing staff correspondent, Detroit Bureau radio and news editor, Lansing Bureau Chief, diplomatic correspondent and Washington foreign editor. In 1969 George began his career in the staff of Governor William G. Milliken as press secretary and later became Milliken's chief of staff. After 14 years in public service, George resumed his journalism career, becoming a political columnist for The Detroit News.

Over the span of his career, George has covered the White House, State Department and Pentagon, was a panelist on "Meet the Press," and was a member of the White House Correspondents Association, the State Department Correspondents Association and Overseas Writers. He is also a recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award of MSU's College of Communications Arts and an inductee into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame. A noted author, George has published "Stewards of the State: The Governors of Michigan," "Sleeping Bear: Its Lore, Legends and First People," "Sleeping Bear: Yesterday and Today," and co-authored "Michigan: Visions of Our Past."

His many accomplishments serve as a lasting example of excellence in journalism. Michigan has been well-served by George Weeks, his insight and knowledge of Michigan politics will be deeply missed.

I would like to thank George for his dedicated service both to the Detroit News and the Michigan community. As he enters his retirement years, I would ask that my colleagues join with Deborah and I to wish him and his wife, Mollie, a very happy, healthy and relaxing future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE WEEKS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. George Weeks, a long-time political journalist for the Detroit News, who is set to retire from writing his weekly column. Mr. Weeks has had a long and illustrious career as a journalist—evidenced by his induction into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 1996. However, his accolades and accomplishments are by no means limited to the field of journalism.

Mr. Weeks not only reported political news, but helped make some of it himself. He served as press secretary and chief of staff for Governor William G. Milliken for 14 years. Mr. Weeks used the expertise he gained in Governor Milliken's office to earn the position of a Kennedy Fellow at Harvard University.

Mr. Weeks, a native of Traverse City, MI, is a true Michigander—an expert, not only in Michigan politics, but in Michigan culture and history as well. I would like to extend my thanks to him for all of his good work and wish him well in his retirement. The Wolverine State is better off for the contributions of George Weeks.

HONORING GEORGE WEEKS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Weeks as he retires as a columnist for The Detroit News.

George Weeks has seen it all. No one knows more about the issues that are important to Michigan than him. He's been around politics and government longer than most people I know, and as such, like few others, he can be counted on to provide insight and perspective on the news of the day. He not only tells readers what the news is, but he tells them what it means.

George began his journalism career with United Press International, covering the White House, Foggy Bottom and Capitol Hill. He rose to the post UPI's top foreign editor. After his work in Washington, George exchanged the U.S. Capitol for the State Capitol upon becoming UPI's Lansing bureau chief. Recognizing his talent, he was soon tapped by Gov. William Milliken to serve as his press secretary and rounded out his service to the administration as the governor's chief of staff.

Since that time, George has ably served The Detroit News as its political columnist. George's passion for Michigan, the Great Lakes and the environment in general is evident in every column he writes. A workhorse and not a showboat, George effectively brings attention to the most important issue facing our Nation, without making the story about himself. He has always conducted himself with the utmost dignity and integrity and it has been a pleasure to work with him.

With great pleasure I join my colleagues in honoring George Weeks, a great journalist.

HONORING DETROIT NEWS COLUMNIST GEORGE WEEKS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Detroit News columnist George Weeks upon his retirement.

George Weeks, who with the support of his wife, Mollie, covered Michigan politics for the Detroit News since 1984 with depth, integrity and fairness. George Weeks is a rare professional who during his career was able to seamlessly transition from reporting on politics to serving in government to returning to his original craft.

After initially serving his country in the U.S. Army, George Weeks launched his career in journalism by working for United Press International in Lansing and Detroit. He would later become UPI's diplomatic correspondent and Washington foreign editor, positions that took him to regions spanning the globe.

He began his service in government as the press secretary to Michigan Governor William G. Milliken in 1969, and later rose to become the governor's executive secretary. In 1984, he returned to the fourth estate when he became a columnist for the Detroit News with a

much broader perspective and insight into politics and government.

George Weeks is respected by his readers and his peers alike for his unique perspective on state, national and international affairs, and was recognized for his work when he was inducted into the ranks of the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame nearly a decade ago.

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known that on this 8th day of February in 2006, that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the contributions and achievements of George Weeks as he writes the next chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WEEKS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Weeks, a distinguished resident of my district and a man whose home number is rung by American Presidents, U.S. Senators and Representatives, Governors, state legislators and local officials alike. As Michigan's foremost political columnist, a mention in George's tri-weekly submissions is courted by candidates for reasons far beyond the sheer volume of his readership. In a career that has spanned 5 decades and nearly as many continents, George's work epitomizes the fairness preached in j-schools across the country. It is no surprise that his praise is sought by both Republicans and Democrats, and it is certainly no surprise that George was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame long before his retirement. Michigan politics has been well served by this honored scribe. As George enters "retirement," and the Detroit News loses its Glen Arbor Bureau, his commentary will be missed, but his work will long be remembered.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District, I extend best wishes to George and Mollie Weeks and sincerely thank them for their service to the great state of Michigan.

CONGRATULATING DETROIT NEWS COLUMNIST GEORGE WEEKS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a man who can be rightly described as a Michigan institution—George Weeks, who recently announced his retirement from his post as key political columnist for the Detroit News.

Since December 1983, George kept his readers well informed about federal, state and local political events in Michigan. Prior to that, George served the people of Michigan in his role as press secretary and, later, chief of staff to Governor William G. Milliken, beginning in 1969. During this time, he also worked as a consultant for the National Governors' Association. Before working for Governor Milliken, George had a successful 14-year career with United Press International, serving as a cor-

respondent and bureau chief in Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Washington.

A native of Traverse City and a journalism graduate of Michigan State University, George is a very deserving 1996 inductee of the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

I have known George Weeks professionally for many years, dating back to when I served in the Michigan Legislature in the 1980s and early 1990s. George is the only reporter that I ever dealt with who had a higher opinion of my ability than I did, and I greatly appreciate his superb insight. Seriously though, I have always found George to be eminently careful and thoughtful in his reporting and writing, and he is one of the finest journalists I have known.

I wish George all the best as he moves into this new phase of his career and life, but all of us who were his readers and the subjects of his writing will be the poorer for it.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. GEORGE WEEKS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. George Weeks on 40 years of outstanding service to the residents of Michigan and to the institution of American journalism.

Mr. Weeks has dedicated his life to reporting in an honest, trustworthy, and professional manner. His commitment to quality journalism and public service has been a valuable asset to the greater Detroit community and to the State of Michigan.

George Weeks' fearless pursuit of excellence has touched the lives of many. His distinctive ability, combined with his genuine concern for the community, has set the standard for journalists and public servants to come.

Although I may not have personally agreed with every commentary, Mr. Weeks has always provided unique insight and clarity on political issues and current events. His ability to communicate and his true devotion to his readers have been incredible assets to our area. His presence in our papers will be sincerely missed.

Today I rise to thank George Weeks for his lifetime of service and dedication to our community, to congratulate him on his many accomplishments, and to wish him the best in his well-earned retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WEEKS, A MICHIGAN JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of George Weeks, who is retiring after more than a quarter century of serving the people of Michigan as their journalistic eyes and ears on the comings and goings of their elected officials.

George Weeks is well-known and highly regarded in Michigan where, as a journalist, au-

thor of several books, and columnist, he has chronicled the actions of Michigan leaders in local, state and federal government.

During his career, George served in Michigan and in Washington, DC for 14 years as a reporter, bureau chief, and foreign correspondent for United Press International (UPI). In Washington, he covered the White House, State Department and Pentagon, and was a panelist on radio and television shows, including NBC's "Meet the Press."

From his days as a Michigan State University (MSU) student working as a stringer for both The Detroit News and UPI, George's career has spanned the terms of at least 7 U.S. Presidents and 5 Michigan Governors. In fact, George interrupted his journalistic career to work as press secretary and later Chief of Staff for Michigan Governor William Milliken.

Thankfully, George's love of journalism brought him back to The Detroit News as a columnist where he has become a Michigan icon, writing about politics as well as state and federal issues with insight and historical perspective. His commitment to quality journalism has made him a highly respected favorite with readers across the state.

The good news for Michigan readers and admirers of George is that while he may be stepping down as a regular Detroit News columnist, he still plans on writing occasional columns and also will be taking time to pursue some of his other writing interests.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring George Weeks for the role model he is to young journalists just starting out, and for his integrity and commitment as a leader in his chosen field. He is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF COLUMNIST GEORGE WEEKS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a journalistic legend and a valued Michigan native, columnist Mr. George Weeks. This long time newsman, acclaimed author and Michigan historian has epitomized the ability to provoke thought and challenge ideology through his interviews and written works.

Born in 1932 in Traverse City, Michigan, a city I proudly represented for 8 of my 14 years in Congress, Mr. Weeks was exposed to the beauty of northern Michigan and the values of rural America. After graduating from Traverse City High School in 1950, Mr. Weeks attended and graduated from Michigan State University (MSU). He spent 18 months as an Army officer before beginning his lengthy career in journalism and politics.

His career in news began in 1954 when he took a job as the Lansing staff correspondent for United Press International (UPI). In the 14 years he spent with UPI, he also served as the Detroit Bureau radio and news editor, Lansing Bureau chief, diplomatic correspondent, and Washington foreign editor. While in Washington DC, Mr. Weeks became a member of the White House Correspondents Association, the State Department Correspondents Association and Overseas Writers. His coverage

abroad took him to the former Soviet Union, Africa, Europe, Latin America and Asia.

The time he spent covering politics in Michigan and beyond placed him among the prestigious Who's Who in America list and served as valuable knowledge as he transitioned to Press Secretary for Michigan Governor William G. Miliken. After beginning with Governor Miliken in 1969, Mr. Weeks went on to serve as a member of the Governor's special council and then as his chief of staff.

The opportunity to work in the Miliken administration would serve as a foundation later for one of his greatest literary works. In the meantime, Mr. Weeks went on to be a Kennedy Fellow in 1981 attending Harvard University Institute of Politics. His research led him to conduct a study and subsequently write a published paper on outstanding governors of the 20th century.

Mr. Weeks then found his way back to his home state of Michigan when he took a job as the political columnist for the Detroit News in 1983. His written works on topics ranging from public affairs to political developments earned him the Outstanding Alumni Award of MSU's College of Communications Arts.

In his limited time, Mr. Weeks wrote several books on a range of topics close to his heart. These literary works included: *Stewards of the State: The Governors of Michigan* (1987; revised 1991), which won the Michigan Small Press "Book of the Year Award" and the achievement award from the Greater Michigan Foundation; *Sleeping Bear: Its Lore, Legends and First People* (1988; fifth printing in 2000); *Sleeping Bear: Yesterday and Today* (1990; expanded edition 2005) and *MEM-KA-WEH: Dawning of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians* (1992). He also co-authored *The Miliken Years: A Pictorial Reflection* (1988) and *A Handbook of African Affairs* (1964) and also contributed to Michigan: *Visions of our Past* (1987) and *The Royal Cookbook* (1969).

As if writing a column as a foremost expert on politics in the state of Michigan or authoring a number of books as a foremost expert on the history of our fascinating state weren't enough, Mr. Weeks also invested time in organizations committed to causes he cherishes. Mr. Weeks has served on the Board of Directors for the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University, the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Advisory Council, and on the planning committee for the annual observance of Michigan Week. Michigan Week, started by his father Don Weeks, is an event aimed at promoting pride throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, George Weeks and his wife Mollie, have also raised two wonderful children, Julie and Don, along their exciting and unique journey thus far in life. Now residing in Glen Arbor, Michigan, I understand that he plans to continue his writing by imparting his wisdom and knowledge through columns in small hometown papers in northern Michigan. It also seems fitting that he plans to do what George does best by turning his endless quest for knowledge on issues he's passionate about into written works that serve as learning tools for others.

Today, I join a long list of individuals, including the Michigan Congressional Delegation, who have had the opportunity to work with, learn from or even know Mr. George Weeks in saying "Thank You". Many of us have been on the other end of the phone line with

George waiting to see if his modest voice would invite a robust conversation about topics in which we shared alike thoughts or if he would ask a question that required careful and considerate thought in answering. Whether you have agreed with him or not on a topic he wrote, you respected his integrity and his ability to be fair in cracking though rhetoric to the truth of the matter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. George Weeks for his commitment to the value of a profession that has often been equated to the fourth branch of government, for his dedication to fair and balanced reporting, for the integrity he brings to this sometimes volatile political world and for his deep, genuine appreciation for the great state of Michigan. Thank you, George!

I certainly wish George Weeks and his wife Mollie the best in retirement and I look forward to our future conversations.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WEEKS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor George Weeks, who is retiring from his position as political columnist for the Detroit News.

In 1954, Mr. Weeks commenced his career with the Detroit News as a campus stringer at Michigan State University. After honorably serving 18 months in the United States Army, he worked for the United Press International bureaus in Lansing and Detroit; subsequently, in 1967 he became UPI's diplomatic correspondent in Washington D.C. Then, in 1969, he left journalism to serve as the press secretary and then chief of staff to Gov. William G. Milliken. After a stellar stint in public service, Mr. Weeks returned to journalism with the Detroit News as the paper's political columnist.

Mr. Weeks earned many honors and awards for his fair and balanced coverage of Michigan politics and, in 1996, he was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations and appreciation for the excellence and integrity Mr. Weeks has displayed throughout his distinguished career, and ask my colleagues to join in honoring him.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD A. RYAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Richard A. Ryan, who is retiring from his post at The Detroit News, after 40 years as a distinguished news reporter, 37 of those years a Washington correspondent.

Dick Ryan has spent most of his life in journalism, reporting for the Muskegon Chronicle and Toledo Blade before establishing his position at the Detroit News in 1966. Ryan was at the News for the tumultuous Watergate period, ending with the historic 1974 resignation of

President Richard Nixon and subsequent elevation of former Michigan Congressman Gerald Ford to the nation's highest office. Ryan watched as Ford was sworn in as the nation's 37th President, announcing the end of what he called "our long national nightmare."

In all, Dick Ryan covered the highs and lows of seven presidents, from Nixon to George W. Bush, traveling overseas with Ronald Reagan for his memorable speech in West Berlin, urging the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. He witnessed the first official visit of an Arab leader to Israel, watching a tenuous peace process initiated by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, whose nations had been at war for decades. He viewed the talks that culminated in the signing of a historic peace agreement between the two nations before the world at the White House.

In addition, Dick Ryan served as President of the Washington-based National Press Club in 2000, elected to that post by his peers in journalism. After a career that has placed him in the front row of some of this country's most fascinating events, he will enjoy his retirement enjoying the company of his five grandchildren, golf, travel, and the endless pursuit of every true journalist: writing.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Richard Ryan to be a person of great professionalism and absolute integrity. He has truly brought credit to a profession which he has served so well. The Michigan Congressional delegation will certainly miss the integrity, dedication and professionalism which drove Dick to always get the story right, and the people of Michigan will miss his insightful reporting from Washington. And I will miss Dick Ryan because not only is he a consummate professional journalist, he is a very dear personal friend.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD RYAN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Richard (Dick) Ryan, on the occasion of his retirement from the Detroit News after 40 years of distinguished service.

A Michigan native, Dick graduated from Wayne State University in 1963 with a major in journalism. Prior to joining the Detroit News in 1966, he worked at the Muskegon Chronicle and the Toledo Blade.

Over the span of his career, Dick has been an eyewitness to four decades of national politics, covering the White House, Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has covered seven presidents, reporting on such historical events as the Watergate scandal, Anwar Sadat's visit to Israel and President Reagan's famous "tear down this wall" speech in Berlin. Because of Dick's reporting skills, Detroiters were always well-informed on some of the most important events in the world.

Currently, Dick is president of the Gridiron Club, an organization of 65 Washington-based journalists. He was also the 2001 president of the National Press Club.

For all that Dick has done in Washington, he has never forgotten about where he is from

and who is reading his stories. While he has become a familiar face here in Washington, he has stayed committed to the people of Detroit and southeastern Michigan.

His many accomplishments serve as a lasting example of excellence in journalism. Michigan has been well-served by Dick Ryan, his insight and knowledge of Michigan politics will be deeply missed.

I would like to thank Dick for his dedicated service both to the Detroit News and the Michigan Community. As he enters his retirement years, I would ask that my colleagues join with Deborah and I to wish him and his wife, Dorothy, a very happy, healthy and relaxing future.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD
RYAN ON HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Richard (Dick) Ryan on his retirement from the Detroit News where he has spent nearly 40 years reporting on Washington, writing about Presidents, politics and the people who make this Nation tick.

For the people of Michigan, Dick Ryan was the observer and scribe of many of America's most momentous national events, and many with international impact.

Dick was there when President Reagan called on Gorbachev to "tear down" the Berlin Wall, and when President Nixon stepped down and Michigan's own, Gerald R. Ford, was sworn in as President of the United States.

It was through Dick's eyes and with his words that Detroit News readers learned about more than 36 years of Presidential political campaigns, the visits of world leaders to the White House, America's part in world events, including the peace agreement signed at Camp David in the late 1970s, and of the demise of one President under impeachment and the survival of impeachment by another.

Highly respected by his readers and his peers, Dick leaves the Detroit News with a legacy that is unparalleled. His time as, in his own words, "an eyewitness to history," is a remarkable record.

Dick Ryan's years of service to his readers and our Nation are legendary and we wish him well as he undertakes a new mission: retirement, enjoyment of his family, and an opportunity to write at his leisure.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Richard (Dick) Ryan as he begins this new adventure in life. He is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

**HONORING DETROIT NEWS SENIOR
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT
RICHARD A. RYAN UPON HIS RE-
TIREMENT**

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Detroit News Senior Washington

Correspondent, Richard A. Ryan upon his retirement.

Dick Ryan is a dedicated professional who devoted his career to journalism, beginning with the Muskegon Chronicle, a daily newspaper located in Michigan's Second Congressional District.

Dick Ryan went on to acquire nearly four decades of experience with The Detroit News, including serving 37 years in the Washington bureau as a correspondent.

His reporting on public policy and politics includes covering Congress, the U.S. Supreme Court, multiple foreign assignments and seven Presidencies beginning with President Richard Nixon.

He witnessed firsthand President Ronald Reagan's speech in 1987 at Brandenburg Gate that two years later led to the fall of the Berlin Wall, as well as Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat's historic journey to Jerusalem in 1977 to initiate a peace process.

Dick Ryan's peers have recognized his accomplishments and dedication by appointing him to such positions as president of the National Press Club and president of the legendary Gridiron Club.

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known on this eighth day of February in 2006, that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the contributions and achievements of Dick Ryan and wishes him well upon his retirement.

**A VOTE FOR MERCHANT
MARINERS**

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, my bill, H.R. 23, the "Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act" will correct the injustice that has been inflicted on a group of World War II veterans, the World War II United States Merchant Marines.

Senator LARRY CRAIG has posted on his Web site his views of S. 1272, the Senate companion bill to H.R. 23. His views have been addressed by the co-chairs of the Just Compensation Committee of the U.S. Merchant Marine Combat Veterans. They have requested that the Senator's views and their letter be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

What is Senator Craig's position on S. 1272?

Without question, the service provided by members of the U.S. Merchant Marine was invaluable to America's victory over the Axis powers during World War II. Merchant Mariners in oceangoing missions served alongside active components of the Armed Forces as they braved the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans to deliver vital supplies and manpower to the warfront. Undaunted by their difficult missions, Merchant Mariners suffered heavy casualties from enemy naval forces and land-to-sea artillery fire. To all members of the U.S. Merchant Marine who put themselves in harm's way, I say "thank you" for your service.

Civilian groups like the U.S. Merchant Marine have frequently performed the equivalent of military service throughout our nation's history. In recognition of that fact, Congress, through the enactment of Public Law 95-202 (established in 1977), a process by

which civilian groups could be recognized for their service and be classified as "veterans" for purposes of all benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Secretary of the Air Force was chosen to be the Executive Agent of the Defense Department in making decisions about granting that status. And the Air Force Secretary's decisions are informed by a review process conducted by the Civilian Military Service Review Board. Since 1977, 30 groups have been recognized as having attained veteran status. In 1988, members of the U.S. Merchant Marine who served between December 7, 1941 and August 15, 1945 were recognized.

The criteria for having civilian service equated with military service are necessarily stringent. That is as it should be; we should never water down what it means to be a veteran of the United States Armed Forces.

With that perspective in mind, I turn now to the merits of S. 1272. S. 1272, among other things, would entitle certain members of the U.S. Merchant Marine (or, if deceased, their surviving spouses) who served between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946, to a \$1,000 monthly payment. The \$1,000 monthly payment would be in addition to any other VA benefits. The following are the reasons why I do not support S. 1272:

(1) The cost of S. 1272 is considerable. Senate rules would require the Committee to identify offsets for the new entitlement spending. Assuming that just 3,000 Merchant Mariners and surviving spouses are alive today (the lowest estimate I have heard), the Committee would have to find \$36 million of offsets in the first year alone. And the Committee would be limited to finding those offsets within other veterans' benefits programs and services, a task that I and other Senators undertake only under extraordinary circumstances.

(2) The precedent set by enacting S. 1272 would likely result in additional spending. For example, the Congress would have very little justification to not extend the same \$1,000 monthly payment to the 29 other groups who have been recognized since 1977 as having attained veteran status. Furthermore, Congress has often granted benefits to veterans long after their service. For example, Congress did not establish presumptions of service-connection for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange until 20 years after the herbicide spraying had ceased. S. 1272 might create an expectation that retroactive payments for these, and other veterans is owed.

(3) While service in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II was extremely dangerous, there is little precedent for conferring a VA benefit (on top of all other benefits) on the basis of casualty rates, danger of duty, or acts of gallantry. Only Medal of Honor recipients receive such a payment. To use a similar justification to award Merchant Mariners a \$1,000 monthly payment would rightly lead to claims from others who served no less valiantly than they.

(4) As previously mentioned, members of the U.S. Merchant Marine who were in active oceangoing service between December 7, 1941 to August 15, 1945 are already veterans, entitled to full veterans' benefits from VA. However, S. 1272 would confer a veterans' benefit on individuals who served (in addition to the dates above) between August 16, 1945 and December 31, 1946. In effect, the bill seeks to grant a veteran's benefit to individuals who are not veterans.

For all of these reasons, I cannot support S. 1272. I want to make clear however, that my opposition to S. 1272 does not mean that I do not share a profound respect for the service rendered to the country by members

of the U.S. Merchant Marine who served during World War II. They were rightly recognized as veterans of the Armed Forces in 1988, and the nation owes them gratitude.

The response from the Merchant Mariners: Senator LARRY E. CRAIG, *Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.*

Misinformation is prevalent and must be rebutted when Veterans of World War II are maligned. Especially the reputations of 9,000 men who gave their lives for this country and lay for the most part in Davy Jones' locker at the bottom of the sea. There are no monuments or headstones where they lay forgotten by the millions of people who benefited from their valiant sacrifices. There are no MIA lists because the government didn't want to disclose the huge losses in the Merchant Marine during World War II.

Let's correct the Record—I am referring to the website of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. A Bill before the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 23—"A Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2005" and its companion Bill in the U.S. Senate, S. 1272 sponsored by Senator Ben Nelson of Nebraska is under attack by Senator Larry Craig of Idaho. We would like to point out that this attack is full of misinformation.

Senator Craig is eloquent in his praise of the U.S. Merchant Marine but undermines their credibility with erroneous and false statements, possibly not intentional but nevertheless damaging to their efforts to establish their rights under the G.I. Bill that benefited all other Veterans of World War II.

(1) Senator Craig lists on his website as item No. 1 "The Cost of S. 1272 is considerable" assuming that just 3,000 Merchant Marine and the wives are alive today. Two things are wrong about that statement. Compared to the cost of lives lost on September 11th at over \$1,400,000 each, the cost per surviving Merchant Marine remaining life span under S. 1272 is negligible. A truer count of remaining Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II has been estimated at close to 10,000 with an estimated 3,000 wives. This has been established by the survivors in their voluntary unincorporated association of the Just Compensation Committee members. It is hard to believe that the Veterans' Affairs Committee would be hard pressed to find \$120,000,000 to fund the first year of an approximate ten year cost to compensate these Veterans for the 40 years of failure to deliver them the G.I. Bill of Rights.

(2) Senator Craig further says on his website that S. 1272 would result in additional spending on 29 other groups who have attained Veterans' status also. These 29 groups total less than 1,000 civilians under military authority, most of whom are dead today and were very far from "harm's way." The Merchant Marine had 250,000 men on armed vessels during World War II, all volunteers, who were in "harm's way" 100 percent of their service time with 81% exposed to enemy action. Senator Craig states that Congress often granted benefits to Veterans long after service. Millions and millions of dollars were granted to Veterans under the G.I. Bill of 1944. The problem is Congress has failed to pay the Merchant Marine Veterans for over 40 years.

(3) Senator Craig keeps referring to the Merchant Marine claim as similar to Medal of Honor recipients. This is not true and a distortion of facts. All other Veterans of World War II received assistance in the equivalent value of \$120,000 in 1946 dollars. Adjusted for inflation, the U.S. Government owes the Merchant Marine Veterans over \$1 million dollars each for their 40 years of neglectful lack of timely payment of benefits. No one covets the \$1,000 per month paid to

Medal of Honor recipients which the government bestows on them. A \$1,000 per month for the 78- to 88-year-old Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II with an expected 3- to 5-year remaining lifetime is a bargain settlement for our government. Most of these aged Veterans subsist on Social Security payments and Medicare struggling to survive in these days of rampant inflation.

(4) Senator Craig states in his website that "In effect, the bill seeks to grant a Veterans' benefit to individuals, not Veterans." The U.S. Congress passed the Fairness Act that recognized that World War II officially ended December 31, 1946 and those who gave service up to that date were entitled to be called Veterans.

We thank Senator Craig for stating that the members of the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II "were rightly recognized as Veterans of Armed Forces in 1988 and the nation owes them its gratitude."

I would like to refresh the recollection of the members of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate by setting forth the words of the most honored leaders of World War II as to their regard of the men who sailed the ships of the Merchant Marine.

The Merchant Mariners of World War II have been our forgotten heroes.

"The men and women who build the ships, the men who sail them, are making it possible to transport fighting men and supplies wherever they are needed to defeat the enemy. The Army is deeply indebted to these men and women for their unceasing effort to do everything in their power to hasten the day of victory."—General of the Army George C. Marshall, U.S. Army Chief of Staff.

"When final victory is ours there is no organization that will share its credit more deservedly than the Merchant Marine."—General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe.

"The Merchant Marine . . . has repeatedly proved its right to be considered as an integral part of our fighting team."—Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Theater.

"The men and ships of the Merchant Marine have participated in every landing operation by the United States Marine Corps from Guadalcanal to Iwo Jima—and we know they will be at hand with supplies and equipment when American amphibious forces hit the beaches of Japan itself . . . We of the Marine Corps salute the men of the merchant fleet."—General A.A. Vandergrift, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps.

" . . . their contribution was just as important as that of the troops . . . During the Tripoli campaign I went down to the water-front and personally thanked the men and skippers of the merchant ships for getting through with the stuff . . ."—Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery.

"Because the Navy shares life and death, attack and victory, with the men of the United States Merchant Marine, we are fully aware of their contribution to the victory which must come."—Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations.

"I wish to commend to you the valor of the merchant seamen participating with us in the liberation of the Philippines. With us they have shared the heaviest enemy fire. On these islands I have ordered them off their ships and into foxholes when their ships became untenable targets of attack. At our side they have suffered in bloodshed and in death . . . They have contributed tremendously to our success. I hold no branch in higher esteem than the Merchant Marine Service."—General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.

"Our growing power on the seas is not alone a war measure. As a post-war policy,

American ships will retain the commanding position in world trade which we are now approaching our war effort . . ."—Vice Admiral E.S. Land USN (Ret.), War Shipping Administrator.

HONORING DAVE DONAHUE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my warmest congratulations to Dave Donahue on the occasion of his retirement from Clear Channel broadcasting. I am certain that all who have had the opportunity to work with him during his illustrious career will miss him.

Dave Donahue is a recipient of the Country Music Association's "Station of the Year Award", Billboard's "Top Ten Programmers Award", and has served on the board of directors for the Country Music Hall of Fame Awards. He became the first Agenda Chairman for the Country Radio Seminar and was its first Exhibit Hall Director. He is a commissioned Kentucky Colonel and a former legislative director for the State of Tennessee House of Representatives. In 2000, Dave was inducted into the Country Music DJ Hall of Fame.

Dave Donahue has had a long and successful career that has spanned many years of outstanding service, dedication, hard work, devotion, and love for country music. I am proud to recognize Dave Donahue for his tireless dedication to the entertainment industry. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dave on his wonderful service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR EUGENE J. MCCARTHY

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, as we resume our business I want to pause for a moment and note the death of a giant in American political history. On December 10, 2005, the Honorable Eugene Joseph McCarthy, former Representative and Senator from Minnesota, departed this life at age 89. Although many Americans, especially the young, may not know much of McCarthy's career or his role in our country's history, we are all fortunate that he chose public service and once trod the halls of this Capitol as a Member.

In the days following the Senator's death here in Washington of the effects of Parkinsonism, much has been written about him. Born on March 29, 1916, McCarthy grew up in Watkins, Minnesota, where, he once said, the culture revolved around baseball, the church, and the railroad. After earning a master's degree at the University of Minnesota, following initial diversions through study for the priesthood and a semi-professional baseball career, McCarthy became a college professor. He worked in the War Department during

World War II and married, having three daughters and a son. In 1948, the historic election ultimately featuring the erroneous Chicago Tribune headline "Dewey Defeats Truman," McCarthy won a seat in the U.S. House, representing St. Paul. Taking his seat in 1949, Eugene McCarthy embarked on a solidly liberal voting record in the House, whose Members included John F. Kennedy, Gerald R. Ford, and Richard M. Nixon.

It immediately became clear that Eugene McCarthy had uncommon political courage. During his first term, another McCarthy, Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin, created an uproar in a February 1950 speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, by waving around an alleged list of Communists in the State Department.

Joe McCarthy's subsequent Red-baiting rampage through the early 1950s thus began, destroying numerous peoples' careers and intimidating countless more. In 1952, Eugene McCarthy, then a second-term Congressman of the minority party, had an opportunity and the courage to confront the author of "McCarthyism" in a nationally broadcast television debate, one of the earliest of its kind. Observers of the "McCarthy vs. McCarthy" debate considered the outcome a draw—in reality, a tremendous victory for the mild-mannered Congressman from Minnesota.

After five terms in the House, during which he helped to found the Democratic Study Group, an organization committed to advancing liberal public policies, Eugene McCarthy successfully challenged the incumbent conservative Republican Senator Edward Thyne. For Democrats, the 1958 election yielded spectacular results, and McCarthy joined a large class of new Senators, one of whom, the distinguished senior Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD, serves to this day.

In the years to follow, the new Senator McCarthy continued his solidly liberal voting record, supporting civil rights, anti-poverty legislation, and the creation of Medicare. He decried racism and the ills of poverty, and supported most proposals of the "New Frontier" and the "Great Society" during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

Of course, the momentous event of Eugene McCarthy's 22 years in Congress was his courageous, insurgent campaign for the 1968 Democratic Presidential nomination, which changed the course of history for America and the world.

Like 87 other Senators, Eugene McCarthy had voted for the Tonkin Gulf Resolution in August 1964, which gave President Johnson authority to wage war in Vietnam. The climate in which that vote had occurred, a few days after an alleged attack by North Vietnamese patrol boats against two American destroyers, made the resolution virtually impossible to oppose. But Senator McCarthy, who served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, came to regret his vote when it became clear to him that the Johnson administration would expend vast sums and thousands of lives in a conflict that even the President himself, we now know from taped telephone conversations, doubted could be won.

McCarthy believed the war was not only unwinnable, but morally wrong. Defying the administration, he urged a new course and called for a negotiated settlement in Vietnam. By the time he announced on November 30, 1967, that he would seek the 1968 Democratic

Presidential nomination, more than 15,000 American service men and women had died, along with tens of thousands of Vietnamese, with no end in sight.

Senator McCarthy's decision to challenge President Johnson shocked and divided the Democratic Party and the country. But dissatisfaction with the war policy had found a champion. Senator McCarthy argued that the billions of dollars being spent in Vietnam could be better put to work, and that withdrawal from Vietnam would not hurt American national security. He launched a campaign focusing on four States scheduled to hold Democratic primaries, beginning with New Hampshire.

In addition to others eager for change, the McCarthy campaign attracted the support of thousands of college students from across the country, many of whom flocked into the State and rang doorbells in support of the Senator, explaining the problems with the war and his vision for a rational solution. To respond to the charge that only "hippies" and "communists" opposed the war, young men shaved their beards and went "clean for Gene." Ben Shahn and other famous artists painted campaign posters, entertainers, including singers Peter, Paul and Mary, who remained the Senator's lifelong friends, wrote and performed.

In the New Hampshire Democratic primary, the Senator received an astounding 42 percent of the vote, to the President's 49 percent, leading the President to withdraw from the race later that month. The McCarthy campaign continued, exhilarated by the result. But after Senator McCarthy demonstrated the vulnerability of the President and overall dissatisfaction with the war, Senator Robert Kennedy entered the race also on an anti-war platform, and fellow Minnesotan Hubert Humphrey, the Vice President, entered as the "establishment" Democrat after President Johnson's withdrawal. Following the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, who had endorsed Senator McCarthy in the California primary, and Senator Robert Kennedy, Vice President Humphrey amassed the delegates needed to win the nomination, and nearly defeated Richard Nixon in the general election.

After leaving the Senate in 1970, McCarthy remained a vital force in American politics, offering an independent point of view on issues, especially campaigns and elections. He wrote dozens of books, poetry, and continued making his unique contribution to our culture until his death.

Mr. Speaker, although the Senator's wife Abigail and their daughter Mary preceded the Senator in death, their daughters Margaret and Ellen survive, along with son Michael. In a personal note, as many of our colleagues know, daughter Ellen McCarthy serves on the Democratic staff of the Committee on House Administration. Every day, Ellen skillfully helps our Committee, other Members and their staffs to navigate the maze of rules, regulations, and other issues they confront in the course of their work here in the House. Speaking for the Committee, we are grateful that Senator McCarthy's dedication to public service led to Ellen's work with us, and we share not only her loss, but also her intense personal pride in her father's accomplishments in this world.

Mr. Speaker, all Members of this Congress, and indeed every American, should give thanks for the life and career of Eugene McCarthy. He had the wisdom to see a wrong, and the courage to act when it mattered, all at

great political peril, and ultimately, sacrifice. We have too seldom seen his like before, and I fear we shall not soon see his like again.

CURRENT CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last spring, China passed the anti-secession law to give Chinese leaders the right to use force against Taiwan if they suspect separatist activities in Taiwan. The deployment of more than 700 missiles along the southeast coast indicates that China still stubbornly clings to a military solution to the Taiwan issue. Mr. Speaker, military intimidation over Taiwan is no solution to the cross-strait relations.

China must learn to respect the aspirations of Taiwan's 23 million people who want to be masters of their own land. China must not block Taiwan's attempts to gain international recognition or to return to international organizations. Taiwan is a free and democratic nation and deserves to be treated with respect by the international community.

Recently, President Chen proposed to prudently think over abolishing all ad hoc institutions under the Office of the President that were not established by law. One of those programs, the National Unification Commission (NUC), has long had its effectiveness in question and he doesn't want to see unification become the only option for the cross-strait relations.

President Chen is a man of peace who has reaffirmed his commitment to maintain the status quo in the Taiwan Strait on many occasions. His goal of reducing tension between Taiwan and China remains unchanged. It is my hope that China will reciprocate Chen's olive branch by renouncing the use of force against Taiwan and resuming dialogue on equal footing and without pre-conditions.

APPRECIATING SOUTH KOREA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR IN IRAQ

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, three years ago it was my privilege to lead a bipartisan delegation of my colleagues to the Korean Peninsula. At the time, we had a rare opportunity to visit Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, as well as Seoul, the capital of South Korea, which I have had the pleasure of visiting on more than one occasion. During that trip, we gained a greater understanding and appreciation of the security challenges we face in Northeast Asia and the particular challenges faced by the Republic of Korea. Our delegation made a return trip to North Korea in January 2005.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the seldom noted fact that our close friend and staunch ally, the Republic of Korea, has contributed the largest contingent

of military personnel in Iraq, after the United States and the United Kingdom. South Korea has currently deployed 3,300 troops to Iraq, performing important functions in the northern part of the country, freeing up U.S. forces for operations elsewhere.

The South Korean government, through legislation passed by its National Assembly in December 2005, extended the time period of deployment of their troops for another year, despite political pressures to withdraw altogether. The extension of the stationing of troops is an expression of South Korea's deep and abiding support for the U.S. efforts to rebuild Iraq and establish a permanent peace there. By its actions, South Korea demonstrates its firm commitment to a rapid reconstruction of Iraq and to establishing stability as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, South Korean troops have been stationed in Iraq since they were first dispatched in August 2004. Named the Zaytun Division, derived from the Arabic term for "olive" and symbolizing peace, the unit has been actively involved in rehabilitating civilian infrastructure facilities for local residents and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

The South Korean National Assembly announced that there will be a gradual reduction of the Zaytun troops by one-third to 2,300 over the course of the coming year. It will be a phased reduction in close consultation with the U.S. and dependent on the Iraqi police force's readiness and the situation on the ground. It is important to note, however, that while there will be a gradual reduction in presence, the role of Zaytun will be enhanced.

In fact, the South Korean troops will soon provide security service for the Irbil Regional Office of the U.N. Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), protecting UNAMI's middle ring and its convoys. Additionally, the USAID office will now be stationed within the Zaytun compound and protected by South Korean forces.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that our South Korean friends have not been thanked loudly or frequently enough for this contribution to the stabilization of Iraqi society. It is a genuine shame that the news media in the U.S. missed this significant story, which was widely reported in the Korean press.

On January 18, 2006, a letter from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was delivered to the commander of South Korean forces in Irbil, a city in northern Iraq, expressing our country's appreciation for their peacekeeping efforts. The letter said, in part, "The humanitarian and reconstruction activities your troops have undertaken have made lasting and substantive contributions to the quality of life for the people of Irbil."

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my personal appreciation to the government and people of South Korea for their lasting contribution to the coalition forces in Iraq and for their commitment to playing an important and responsible role in the international community. As a staunch ally of the United States with a mutually comprehensive alliance partnership that has spanned over fifty years and four major conflicts since the end of World War II, South Korea deserves our recognition and expression of support.

COMMEMORATING MESA VERDE'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, I will join the people of Colorado at Mesa Verde National Park to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

On June 29, 1906, Congress designated Mesa Verde as a national park unique for its archaeological treasures, spectacular views, and abundant wildlife. Located at the intersection of four states, Mesa Verde is a tremendous resource to the entire nation and a jewel in my congressional district.

Every year, 450,000 people travel to Southwest Colorado to visit the park. For those who have hiked the trails carved out by the Anasazi Indians, they know that Mesa Verde is truly a special place and one of the finest National Parks in our country. As the first cultural and historic national park in the history of the world, Mesa Verde helped spur Congress to preserve other important historical and archaeological sites.

I am proud to represent Mesa Verde National Park—Colorado's first national park—and its surrounding communities in Montezuma County here in Congress.

HONORING THE FOUR CHAPLAINS WHO SERVED ON THE U.S.S. "DORCHESTER"

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of the four chaplains who gave their lives in service of our nation while serving on the U.S.S. *Dorchester* during the Second World War. The *Dorchester*, known as the 'Grey Ghost' by U-boat crews, carried nearly 1 million U.S. troops to Europe during her tenure, which came to a tragic end 63 years ago today.

At 12:55 a.m. February 3, 1943, a German U-boat launched a torpedo that struck the *Dorchester*, killing many of the 902 aboard instantly, injuring hundreds of others, and creating chaos as the ship took on water.

Captain Hans J. Danielsen gave the order to abandon ship. As men struggled amid the turmoil to board life boats, the ship's four chaplains, Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed, offered solace and counseled courage.

As the supply of life vests dwindled, each chaplain removed his own life vest and handed it to a soldier. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, one of the 230 survivors.

Survivors recount their last glimpse of the U.S.S. *Dorchester* in the icy waters off the Newfoundland coast: The four chaplains linked arms in prayer and went down with the ship. We mark their heroism today, February 3, as "Four Chaplains Day."

I want to thank Commander of the Combined Veterans Association of Illinois Victor

Cibelli and event chairman John Bigwood for arranging a tribute to the four chaplains at the Northwest Suburban Jewish Congregation in Morton Grove, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, this tribute provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the spiritual strength, patriotism, and dedication to their fellow sailors exhibited by these four chaplains as they made ultimate sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the memory of the four chaplains of the U.S.S. *Dorchester*.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, Coretta Scott King's passing is a tremendous loss for our country and for all who have worked to uphold America's promise of equal justice under the law. She led with great passion, integrity and with a spirit that should be a guiding light for all of us.

When Americans visit our Nation's Capital, they are overwhelmed with beautiful monuments honoring the great leaders of our country. From the Jefferson Memorial to the Washington Monument to the U.S. Capitol, every building and statue is in place to remind Americans of the legacy left by these leaders and their contributions to the framework of our Nation. There is no monument or building dedicated to the heroic actions that mark Mrs. King's life in the Nation's Capital, but I believe her legacy lives on in ways that cannot be adequately honored with a statue. Mrs. King's legacy is honored when African-American women join their neighbors at the local poll to vote on Election Day. And she is honored when children read for the first time a sign that says "Whites Only," not in their community, but in a museum.

Mrs. King, who was faced with the tragic and early loss of her life partner, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., did not act bitterly towards the violence that interrupted her life, but continued to spread the message of peace and equality to all corners of the world. As founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Mrs. King spent her life furthering the Civil Rights Movement, and later, creating the largest archive of documents from this era. With this collection in place, future generations will have the ability to educate themselves beyond what is read in textbooks, and will have the opportunity to experience firsthand the sacrifices that were made to build the world we live in today.

Like all who have sacrificed for the most fundamental American value—that equality and justice are the birthright of everyone in our society—Mrs. King has left us a country that is better today than when she arrived. However, there is still much work that remains to ensure that every American has the opportunity to fulfill their potential and we must uphold her legacy by continuing her work.

I hope that all Americans will pause to remember the values for which she stood and to

consider how we can work together to make sure the promise of America is enjoyed equally by all.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER STEVEN
STEVENSON

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of Commander Steven Stevenson's 21 year of service with the Civil Engineer Corps of the United States Navy. I also wish to congratulate Commander Stevenson on his upcoming retirement.

Commander Stevenson was raised in Western Colorado and graduated from Olathe High School in 1981.

Beginning in his youth, Commander Stevenson chose to put family and country before self, attending the Naval Academy at Annapolis. Upon his graduation in 1985, Commander Stevenson was assigned to Amphibious Construction Battalion One, where he served with distinction as Assistant Bravo Company Commander and Assistant Operations Officer.

From 1987 to 1990, Stevenson served as the commander of the Construction Battalion Unit 418 and was selected for the highly competitive US Navy Ocean Facilities Program. Stevenson, displaying his characteristic level of determination and intellect, succeeded in earning a Masters of Science in Ocean Engineering.

When the Navy needed a capable leader to establish a new Construction Battalion Unit during the 1990's, it turned to Commander Stevenson. And when the Navy needed a well educated officer to bring the Seabees into the information age, once again it turned to Commander Stevenson, who went on to modernize everything from Seabee equipment to training.

Commander Stevenson's scholarly and engineering excellence is only exceeded by his devotion to his country. Stevenson represents the very definition of the famous Seabee valor having earned two Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, a Navy Achievement Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation over the course of his career.

Commander Stevenson's life of service exemplifies the Seabee motto "Constrimus, Batuimus"—"We build, We Fight". He spent his career building a better and safer future for our country, all the time ready to put his life on the line for that brighter tomorrow and the ideals he has held dear.

And so today I would like to both congratulate Commander Stevenson on his retirement, and personally thank him for his 21 years of devoted service to his country.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF DR. CARL
EDWARD HYMAN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Dr. Carl Edward Hyman.

Born on June 29, 1924 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Dr. Hyman passed away on December 31, 2005 and I would like to recognize his life and achievements.

After graduating from Merrill High School in Pine Bluff, Dr. Hyman then attended Frisk University and Meharry Medical College in Tennessee. He then became a resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Hubbard Hospital in Nashville and completed post graduate studies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1959, Dr. Hyman was appointed Chief Resident of Provident Hospital in Chicago.

For almost half a century, Dr. Hyman was in a private Obstetrician/Gynecology practice in Pine Bluff, where he became the first residency trained African-American specialist in the State of Arkansas. Over the course of his lifetime, Dr. Hyman earned a reputation as a generous and selfless community leader in Jefferson County. Among numerous accomplishments, he was a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the first African-American to serve on the Pine Bluff Civil Service Commission, a lifetime member of NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and a member of the Trustee Ministry at Kings Highway Missionary Baptist Church. Perhaps most notably, Dr. Hyman was appointed by Governor Bill Clinton to become the first African-American appointee to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, a board which he served for 28 years.

Dr. Hyman led an exemplary life both professionally and in unwavering service to his community and his state. While Dr. Hyman may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on forever in the lives he touched. My deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Dr. Edith Hyman; his son, Dr. Carl Alta Hyman; and his extended family of brothers, sisters, nephews and grandchildren.

PATIENTS BEFORE PROFITS ACT
OF 2006

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation—the Patients Before Profits Act of 2006—that will right some of the many wrongs in the budget reconciliation bill passed by Congress last week and signed by the President today. This legislation, which is also being introduced today in the Senate by Senator CLINTON, will realign our priorities to protect the healthcare coverage of working families rather than the profiteering of HMOs and private insurance companies.

The Patients Before Profits Act eliminates Government overpayments to Medicare HMOs through removal of a "slush fund" provision and ensuring these HMOs are only paid what is appropriate for the consumers they serve. This bill would then use these savings to restore protections against excessive out-of-pocket costs for necessary medical visits, prescription drugs, and emergency room care. It will also restore the benefit protections that provide medically necessary treatments under Medicaid and ensure families have adequate benefit coverage, not bare-bone packages.

The Patients Before Profits Act is needed because of the recently passed so-called Deficit Reduction Act, which the Republicans designed and the President is signing into law today. In the dark of the night, the Republicans removed provisions that transferred \$32 billion in taxpayer overpayments to Medicare HMOs and insurance plans.

The Senate bill had cut \$36 billion in overpayments to the HMOs in Medicare. That included \$26 billion in savings by more accurately calculating their payments. But the negotiators rewrote the provision to save just \$4 billion, providing a \$22 billion windfall to the HMOs. The Senate bill also eliminated a \$10 billion slush fund designed to entice HMOs to participate in the prescription drug program. The Republican conferees dropped this provision, providing another \$10 billion gift to the HMOs for a total of \$32 billion.

This bill takes back the money given to Republican-favored companies and restores to our most vulnerable citizens the needed healthcare that was cut. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, of the \$28 billion in savings from Medicaid over 10 years, about 75 percent of that amount is due to provisions that reduce the number of people who can afford to participate. It will increase the number of uninsured and under-insured by raising the copayments that people will have to pay to see their doctors, increasing premiums, cutting medically necessary treatments, and tightening access to long-term care.

By 2015, 4.5 million children will be affected by higher cost-sharing charges for healthcare services such as doctor visits. A total of 13 million people will face higher charges to access their healthcare services. Twenty million people will face higher charges to obtain needed prescription drugs. One-third of those individuals affected by the drug cost-sharing (6.6 million) will be children and half (10 million) will have incomes below the Federal poverty level (monthly incomes of less than \$1,380 for a family of three). All this because of a Republican unwillingness to take back overpayments to HMOs.

Congressional Budget Office analysis also concludes that the Republican legislation assumes that the number of uninsured will increase. Twenty percent of the savings from new premium charges under this law will derive from families who are no longer able to maintain their Medicaid coverage due to increased costs. Sixty percent of those who will lose coverage due to new premium charges will be children. Again, all of this because of a Republican unwillingness to take back overpayments to HMOs.

The Patients Before Profits Act of 2006 is a good start to right some of the wrongs that the Republican-led Congress and the President have inflicted on working families, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women, and children. I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LAWRENCE

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. David Lawrence of

CHADBOURN, NORTH CAROLINA, FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AND YEARS OF SERVICE AS A TOWN COUNCILMAN AND MAYOR PRO TEMPORE. DAVID PASSED AWAY ON JANUARY 24, 2006, AFTER A LONG BATTLE WITH PROSTATE CANCER. DAVID'S TREMENDOUS LEADERSHIP, DEDICATION, AND ALTRUISM AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL AND MEMBER OF THE CHADBOURN COMMUNITY WILL LIVE ON IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF GENERATIONS TO COME.

Born in Chadbourn, David entered first grade the year that the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education* was decided. David went on to graduate from West Columbus High School in 1966. During high school, David enjoyed playing in the band and singing in the choir, but he was most well-known for being a star athlete of the basketball team. In fact, David was the first African-American to play in the N.C. East-West All-Star basketball game. Well-known coach Cotton Fitzsimmons recognized David's ability and spirit and recruited him to play basketball at the college level. David went on to become a freshman starter on the Moberly Junior College National Championship Team and was named the best defensive player on the 1970 Kansas State University Big 8 Championship team.

David showed his talent and perseverance off the court as well. He received his undergraduate and Master's degrees from Kansas State University. Later, David earned a second Master's degree from North Carolina Central University in educational leadership. In 1973, David became an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve and served in that capacity for 16 years. David was elected to the Town Council in 1995, and he was elected Mayor Pro Tempore just in the last year.

David utilized the skills he learned playing basketball and the knowledge he learned in school to become a very influential educational and sports leader in Southeastern North Carolina. David truly made a difference in the lives of his students. For 16 years, David worked as an educational administrator for Columbus County schools. His most recent position was as an Assistant Principal at Williams Township School. From 1970–1988, David coached basketball at Kansas State University, Jacksonville University, Pensacola Junior College, Tate High School, and Durham High School. In 1988, David's Durham High School team was the PAC6 Tournament Champs, and he was named the Durham City County Prep Coach of the Year.

Legendary UCLA Basketball Coach John Wooden once said, "Sports do not build character. They reveal it." This statement could not be more true in the case of David Lawrence. The manner in which David played basketball as a youth and coached basketball as an adult not only revealed his leadership, but also more importantly, his unselfish commitment to others and causes greater than himself.

Mr. Speaker, dedicated service to others combined with dynamic leadership has been the embodiment of David's life. May we all use his wisdom, selflessness, and integrity as a beacon of direction and a source of true enlightenment for many years to come. Indeed, may God bless to all of our memories the honored life and legacy of David Lawrence.

THE TAX CODE TERMINATION ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Tax Code Termination Act".

This bi-partisan legislation, which I introduced with my colleague COLLIN PETERSON of Minnesota, will accomplish two goals. It will abolish the Internal Revenue Code by December 31, 2009, and call on Congress to approve a new Federal tax system by July of the same year.

The fact is our current tax system has spiraled out of control. Today's tax code is unfair, discourages against savings and investment, and is impossibly complex.

A few years ago, Money magazine asked 50 professional tax preparers to file a return for a fictional family. No one came up with the same tax total, nor did any of the preparers calculate what Money magazine thought was the correct Federal income tax. The results varied by thousands of dollars. At a time when Americans devote a total of 7 billion hours each year to comply with the tax code, we need tax simplification.

Whichever simple tax system is adopted, the key ingredients should be: a low rate for all Americans; tax relief for working people; protection of the rights of taxpayers and reduction in tax collection abuses; promotion of savings and investment; and encouragement of economic growth and job creation. Taxes may be unavoidable but they don't have to be unfair and overcomplicated.

While many questions remain about the best way to reform our tax system, I am certain that if Congress is forced to address the issue we can create a tax code that is simpler, fairer, and better for our economy than the one we are forced to comply with today. The problem is Congress won't act on such a contentious issue unless it is forced to do so. The Tax Code Termination Act will force Congress to finally debate and address fundamental tax reform.

Just like other programs that require reauthorization, the tax code must be reviewed to examine whether it is fulfilling its intended purpose and then Congress must make what changes are necessary.

There is a widespread consensus that the current system is broken, and keeping it is not in America's best interest. I urge each of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. LAWRENCE W. SCOTT

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize the life of a distinguished American, Dr. Lawrence "Bill" W. Scott, who passed away on December 20, 2005.

Throughout his illustrious life, Dr. Scott could claim many "firsts." In 1944, he was the first black student body president of Foshay Middle School. In 1947, he graduated with

honors from Polytechnic High School, where he participated in track and field and also served as the first black student body president. In 1948, he attended the University of California at Berkeley and later became the student body "representative at large." After receiving his degree from Berkeley, in 1951, Dr. Scott was drafted into the U.S. Army and stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he served for two years during the Korean War. He eventually attained the rank of Captain.

After his discharge from the Army, Dr. Scott enrolled in the pre-med program at the University of California at Los Angeles. In 1957, the then new UCLA School of Medicine accepted Dr. Scott as its first African American medical student. Upon graduation, Dr. Scott interned at Harbor General Hospital, ultimately specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. He subsequently opened two women's clinics in Los Angeles.

At the age of 52 and after 14 years of medical practice, Dr. Scott returned to law school and received his J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law in 1980. After passing the bar, he initially thought he would pursue missionary work; however, he worked as a forensic attorney and represented victims in malpractice suits.

Dr. Scott's achievements, honors, and awards are numerous. He was the first African American resident at Queen of Angels Hospital in Los Angeles. At one time, he held the record for the most infants delivered at Cedars-Sinai Medical center. He also served on the Board of Governors of the UCLA Foundation in the mid-1980s.

His interest in people and his special affection for children was evident. He enjoyed sports and was an avid tennis player. He also loved music, from jazz to the classics. He will be remembered by many for his wonderful humor and his black book of jokes.

Dr. Scott is survived by his devoted wife of 8 years, Maria; his three children, Rebecca, Brian, and Onjale Scott; his sister, Darling Scott Herod; his brother, Paul Richard Scott; mother-in-law, Loretta Domer-Wilson; and other beloved family and friends.

Dr. Scott truly enjoyed this journey called life and lived it to its fullest.

IN CELEBRATION OF VIRGINIA DENTAL ASSOCIATION'S MISSION OF MERCY TO NEW ORLEANS

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the wealth and generosity of the American people is possibly the greatest story to come from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Upon seeing their fellow citizens in need, Americans pledged millions of dollars to the Red Cross and other charitable organizations. Families hosted displaced evacuees, while others welcomed strangers into their homes, schools, and houses of worship. I would like to commend one group of volunteers who have put their specialized skills to use in bringing critical services back to New Orleans.

This past Sunday, forty dentists and forty support volunteers from the Commonwealth of Virginia, in conjunction with the Virginia Dental

Association, left Virginia on a Mission of Mercy. They joined with 400 medical professionals and 150 support volunteers from thirty-eight different states and transformed the New Orleans Zoo into one large health care clinic. They will spend this week staffing this clinic, providing health care free of charge to anyone who needs it. The dentists from Virginia are not just providing checkups, but are performing extractions, fillings, partial realignments, and all other procedures that one would normally receive in a dentist's office. The 500 dental patients that will be treated daily are just a portion of the 1600 patients that will be triaged through the clinic coordinated by Remote Area Medical of Knoxville, Tennessee.

The doctors and support volunteers participating in the Mission of Mercy are paying for their own transportation and lodging. On top of those costs, many of them are forced to close their own practices in their home states in order to participate in the mission.

This simple gift to the people of New Orleans is a much needed one. The image of homes flooded by Katrina's waters is prevalent in our minds. It is easy to forget that businesses, such as doctor's offices, were also destroyed. For the parts of New Orleans that weren't flooded, many still lack power and potable water. For many of the brave citizens and aid workers that still inhabit the city, health care is a creature comfort that is either unavailable or too expensive. It is a necessity that sadly takes a backseat to more immediate concerns.

The federal government has yet to fully live up to its responsibility to the citizens whose lives were ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, and until the federal government fulfills this responsibility, the job is left to private citizens to put a great city back together again. I salute the medical professionals and volunteers from around the country and especially those from the Virginia Dental Association who are giving of their time, money, and expertise to help bring normalcy back to the lives of their fellow citizens. The entire Virginia Congressional delegation salutes the Virginia Dental Association as ambassadors of goodwill and Virginia values.

DISABLED VETERANS TAX FAIRNESS ACT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today Representative BILIRAKIS and I are introducing the Disabled Veterans Tax Fairness Act. This bipartisan bill serves disabled veterans who have been caught in the cross hairs of the bureaucracy at the Department of Veterans Affairs and an Internal Revenue Service statute of limitations. The Disabled Veterans Tax Fairness Act would add an exception to the IRS statute of limitations that would allow disabled military retirees whose disability claims have been pending for more than 3 years to receive back taxes for all the years that their claim was pending.

This issue was brought to my attention by a constituent who had a disability claim pending at the VA for 8 years. After he finally won his

disability claim and was awarded retroactive disability compensation, he was denied 5 years of back taxes due to the IRS 3-year statute of limitations. This veteran and perhaps thousands of others are being penalized through no fault of their own.

To determine the scope of the problem, I requested a report in the FY06 TT/HUD appropriations bill directing the IRS to tell the committee how many disabled military retirees have been and will be penalized by this IRS statute of limitations. I look forward to the results in mid-March.

Those who have dedicated their lives to the security of this country should not be penalized by the IRS for bureaucratic inefficiency by the VA disability claims process. This bill is supported by the Military Officers Association of America and The Military Coalition. Please join Representative BILIRAKIS and me as a cosponsor of H.R. 4727.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD: TIME TO TAKE A SECOND LOOK AT CHILD ABUSE INC.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to set the record straight about significant misinformation that continues to be disseminated concerning an amendment I offered last summer. Planned Parenthood has refused to admit the truth about the true genesis of this amendment. Because Planned Parenthood boasts that "trust is the cornerstone of why people choose [them]," I cannot allow its lies to continue unanswered. And I believe it's time Americans take a look at Planned Parenthood on other issues as well, including abortion.

Several years ago I became aware of a devastating condition called fistula. Fistula is a terribly painful disorder that marginalizes women in many parts of the developing world, yet is relatively inexpensive to treat. I authored legislation to authorize USAID to provide much-needed assistance to women desperate for treatment. Unfortunately, with the help of organizations like Planned Parenthood, some of my colleagues tried to weaken the authorization by adding language that would have prevented crucial faith-based health care providers from helping women through this program.

Women suffering with fistula need treatment, and provisions mandating contraceptives would have prevented some health care providers most suited to provide treatment from doing so. These women need speedy treatment, not politicized language.

As the prime author of H.R. 2601—The Foreign Assistance Authorization Act of FY 06 and 07—I personally wrote the section in the bill, (Sec. 1001) that authorizes the President to establish at least 12 treatment centers to provide surgery and healing therapies for women suffering from a devastating condition known as obstetric fistula. The bill also provides for the dissemination of educational information so that women will know where to go for affordable treatment and how to protect against the occurrence of this preventable, curable condition.

Obstetric fistula is an excruciatingly painful hole or rupture in tissues surrounding a woman's birth canal, bladder, or rectum that is caused by rape, physical abuse or untreated, obstructed labor. Tragically, the constant leaking of urine and feces leads to sickness, desertion by husbands and family, extreme social isolation, and poverty.

Amazingly, for \$150—\$300, a woman victimized by fistula can obtain a surgical repair which gives her back her life. No woman should be denied this minimal, life-saving surgical repair. For several years now, I have asked USAID and the Congress to establish a program to assist women who suffer from obstetric fistula. According to USAID, an estimated 2 million women suffer needlessly from fistula, with 50–100 thousand new cases added every year, mostly in Africa.

USAID has begun to provide support for fistula centers, and that's great. They hoped to put \$3 million into the program by the end of 2005 and they have already identified a dozen medical facilities ready to participate and help these women. My bill, which originally authorized \$5 million for 2006 and \$5 million in 2007, ensures that the program is properly implemented and able to aid as many women, and young girls, as possible.

During committee mark-up on H.R. 2601, Rep. JOE CROWLEY (D-NY) amended my language in H.R. 2601, to mandate that the new centers "expand access to contraception." At first blush, the language looked OK, but it became very clear that it would have had the dire consequence of excluding certain faith-based health providers who, while deeply committed to mitigating the pain of fistula, would be barred from receiving funds. For example, the Crowley language would have excluded NGOs and church-based organizations opposed to chemicals that act as abortifacients—those that prevent implantation of a newly created human life—from getting any U.S. funds. Had my amendment not succeeded, several hospitals selected by USAID as "fistula centers" would have lost funding.

The amendment I offered that passed on the floor in July corrected this problem so that the faith-based sites including those already identified for the program by USAID—and perhaps others in future—could participate and provide assistance to women in need. My amendment to my own bill also increased the funding in 2007 to \$7.5 million, since it is obvious that once the centers are up and running the demand for the cure will be even greater. To participate in the program, providers must offer critical treatment care—including increased access to skilled birth attendants—and may offer information about a number of preventative practices such as abstinence education, encouraging postponement of marriage and childbearing until after teenage years, and family planning services for women whose age or health status place them at high risk of prolonged or obstructed childbirth.

Nothing in my original fistula language or my amendment adopted on the floor restricts access to family planning services. Rather, my amendment made a variety of preventative practices optional and as such is sensitive to and consistent with the values of the people—and the hospitals that serve them—in developing countries.

Despite all this, Planned Parenthood still insists on praising the people who would have killed the amendment and attacking me. The

headline on its website reads: "Rep. CHRIS SMITH's Latest Political Attack on Women." The closing line of its story says, "The gentleman from New Jersey would do well—just once—to try and feel the pain of others."

I have authored numerous laws—that is to say, I am the prime sponsor of laws—that directly benefit women, including the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000 (P.L. 106–386), the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 (P.L. 108–193), the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–164), the Results and Accountability in Microenterprise (P.L. 108–484), and the Microenterprise Enhancement Act of 2003 (P.L. 108–31), just to name a few. I helped secure the passage of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization in 2000 by incorporating its major provisions into my law, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000. I have fought for human rights and health care my entire career.

I am currently the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Operations and the Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (also known as the United States Helsinki Commission), which works to promote and foster democracy, human rights, and stability in Eastern and Central Europe. I served as the Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee until 2005, where I authored laws that are helping veterans to this day and will for as far as the eye can see in the areas of health care, college education, widows' benefits, and the creation of a new comprehensive program to help homeless veterans. I also presently serve as the co-chair and co-founder of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, the founding co-chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus, the co-founder of the Coalition for Autism Research and Education, the co-chair and co-founder of the Congressional Refugee Caucus, and the co-chair of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus. Having served 26 years in Congress, I could continue this list, Mr. Speaker. I set forth my dedication to these causes here not to promote myself, but to show Planned Parenthood's deceptions. Planned Parenthood's vicious attacks on me are, at best, misinformed; at worst, libel.

Sadly, this is a pattern of conduct with Planned Parenthood, seeking to discredit anyone who includes the protection of the unborn along with fundamental human rights. When one stops to consider the big business that is abortion, it is no wonder.

ABORTION AS A BUSINESS

Planned Parenthood makes millions of dollars plying its lethal trade at nearly 850 clinics in the U.S. alone. Judith Fetrow, a former Planned Parenthood worker, verifies this fact: "It is extremely difficult to watch doctors lie, clinic workers cover up, and hear terrifying stories of women dragged out of clinics to die in cars on the way to the hospital without beginning to question the party line. I began to wonder if we were really caring for these women, or if we were just working for another corporation whose only interest was the bottom line."

Tragically, the seemingly benign Planned Parenthood is in the grisly business of dismembering the fragile bodies of unborn children with sharp knives and hideous suction machines that are 25 to 30 times more power-

ful than a vacuum cleaner used at home. Planned Parenthood ought to be known as "Child Abuse, Incorporated," for the large number of children that it has killed and continues to kill, all the while being subsidized by American taxpayers. This is not a business of healing, nurturing, or caring—this is a business of killing.

For Planned Parenthood, business is good. Violence against children pays handsomely. In 2004, it increased the number of abortions it performed by 10,000—while abortions nationwide have declined—for a total of 255,015, a new pathetic record of kids killed even for Planned Parenthood. For "medical abortions," Planned Parenthood quotes prices from \$350 to \$650. For first-trimester vacuum and D&E abortions, the only type of surgical abortions for which they provide a price range, Planned Parenthood earns \$350 to \$700 apiece.

To put the number of child deaths in perspective, picture this: 67,500 fans filled Ford Field to watch the Super Bowl last Sunday night. Planned Parenthood performed 255,015 abortions in 2004. The number of unborn babies whose lives were taken from them before they could take their first breath by this one corporation in one year could have filled that stadium nearly four times over. Planned Parenthood is now responsible for committing nearly one out of every five abortions performed in the United States, with its numbers steadily rising while the overall totals in the U.S. have been declining. Over the course of time, Planned Parenthood's tally in the taking of innocent children's lives has exceeded the three million mark.

If the number of abortions performed alone doesn't convince you of Planned Parenthood's agenda, Mr. Speaker, just compare it with the other services it provided in the name of "family planning." Planned Parenthood—parenthood, Mr. Speaker—provided a mere 17,610 clients with prenatal care. That's a ratio of one parent to every 14 women who lost their children to abortion. Planned Parenthood referred a meager 1,414 clients to adoption services. That means it killed 180 babies for everyone it referred to be placed with a couple desperately seeking a child. To me, Mr. Speaker, this record doesn't seem to be that of an organization dedicated to preserving women's "choices."

And if that is not enough, this so-called "pro-choice" organization does everything within its power and massive budget to prevent women from knowing all their options and being certain that their choices are truly informed. Planned Parenthood both lobbies and litigates against virtually every child protection initiative at both the state and federal level, including parental and spousal notification, women's right to know laws, waiting periods, partial-birth abortion bans, unborn victims of violence laws, statutory rape reporting laws, and abortion funding bans. It inflates statistics to promote its own agenda.

One of the abortion community's own exposed them, though, when Ron Fitzsimmons, the director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers publicly admitted that he "lied through (his) teeth" when he told a TV interviewer that partial-birth abortion was "used rarely and only on women whose lives were in danger or whose fetuses were damaged." Fitzsimmons confessed that the myth about this horrific abortion procedure was deliberately propagated by the abortion lobby—in-

cluding Planned Parenthood and its research arm, the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI). In a 1995 letter to Members of Congress, Planned Parenthood, AGI, and other groups stated, "This surgical procedure is used only in rare cases, fewer than 500 per year. It is most often performed in the cases of wanted pregnancies gone tragically wrong, when a family learns late in pregnancy of severe fetal anomalies or a medical condition that threatens the pregnant woman's life or health." In truth, Fitzsimmons explained, the vast majority of partial-birth abortions are performed on healthy fetuses, 20 weeks or more along, with healthy mothers. The number of 500 partial-birth abortions a year that Planned Parenthood cited in its letter was also a complete falsehood. Fitzsimmons estimated that the method was used 3,000–5,000 times annually. I would argue that even this number is low—in just one New Jersey abortion mill, the Bergen Record newspaper reported that 1,500 children were killed by partial birth abortion in one year.

When Planned Parenthood can't accomplish its deadly goals through the democratic process, it turns to the courts. It files approximately 50 lawsuits a year to protect its business interests in abortion. Then, Planned Parenthood fights tooth and nail to prevent judges who recognize the inherent value of human life at every stage, as well as the constitutional protections of that life, from getting on the bench. Luckily for us, the American people and our President and Senate have seen through that propaganda blitz.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

Sadly, it does exactly the same thing overseas, and many foreign governments are eventually deceived by its arguments. The Planned Parenthood Federation of America-International is leaving no stone unturned in its misguided, obsessive campaign to legalize abortion on demand. If it succeeds, millions of babies will die from the violence of abortion. We cannot add to the body count.

In Planned Parenthood's 2003–2004 annual report, the organization clearly admits its goal. It states that programs supported by Planned Parenthood Federation of America-International "guarantee the sexual and reproductive health and rights of individuals by providing... safe abortion and post-abortion care services. . . ."

The use of family planning to cloak its real agenda—the use of family planning as a cover for permissive abortion laws—is now commonplace, and must be stopped. In over 100 countries around the world, the lives of unborn children are still protected by law. But in country after country, we find Planned Parenthood zealots partnering with well-financed NGOs from Europe to promote violence against unborn babies.

And as Planned Parenthood—the most prominent advocate, sometimes the only advocate—of legalizing abortion on demand—has said, "When abortion laws are liberalized, the number of abortions skyrocket." That is Planned Parenthood's word, skyrocket. So if we want more abortions—more dead babies and more wounded women—liberalize the laws.

TAXPAYER SUBSIDY

Over a third of Planned Parenthood's income comes from the pockets of tax-paying Americans, through local, state, and federal governments. Sure, we have the Hyde Amendment in place, thankfully, which prevents taxpayer dollars from directly funding

abortions, but money is fungible. The millions of dollars we give to Planned Parenthood to provide so-called "family planning" services immediately frees up millions more to be used for the performance and promotion of abortion. Americans' hard-earned money goes to keep the lights on and pay the heat bill for this industry that is literally making a killing taking the lives of the children they'll never get the chance to meet. People who see that abortion is murder are still forced to subsidize the lawsuits and lobbying that keeps abortion legal.

Planned Parenthood's 2003–04 annual report brags about how it helped increase Title X funding, for a total of \$273 million in taxpayer dollars. It also discloses that it received \$265.2 million in government grants and contracts from Title X and other sources during that period.

The abortion promoters never tire of reminding us that they promote abortion with what they call "their own money," but this argument deliberately misses the point.

First, it ignores the fact that all money is fungible. When we pay an organization like Planned Parenthood millions of dollars, we cannot help but enrich and empower all of that organization's activities, all that it does, even if the organization keeps a set of books that says it uses its money for one thing and our money for something else.

We must begin to stand with the victims, both mother and child, and against the victimizers. When we subsidize and lavish Federal funds on abortion organizations, we empower the child abusers; and Planned Parenthood, make no mistake about it, both here and overseas, is "Child Abuse, Incorporated."

ABORTION CLINICS = TORTURE MILLS

Abortion mills do not nurture, they do not heal, they do not cure disease.

Abortion is violence against children. Some abortion methods dismember and rip apart the fragile bodies of children. Other methods chemically poison children. Abortionists turn children's bodies into burned corpses, a direct result of the caustic effect of poisoning and other methods of chemical abortions.

I would say to my colleagues, there is absolutely nothing benign or curing or nurturing about abortion. It is violence. It is gruesome. And yet the apologists sanitize the awful deed with soothing, misleading rhetoric. Abortion methods are particularly ugly because, under the guise of choice, they turn baby girls and baby boys into dead baby girls and dead baby boys.

I have drafted a bill that would inform women about the pain their unborn babies experience during abortions, the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act, H.R. 356. This bipartisan bill requires that those performing abortions at or beyond the 20-week point provide the mother with certain information regarding the capacity of her unborn child to experience pain during the abortion, and offer the mother the option of having pain-reducing drugs administered directly to the unborn child to reduce his or her pain. Not surprisingly, the abortion lobby—including Planned Parenthood—has opposed informing women of this truth, though they do not deny that unborn children may feel pain after 20 weeks gestation.

CONSCIENCE

Forty-five States and the Federal Government protect the right of health care providers to decline involvement in abortion. Planned

Parenthood has launched an active campaign to abolish these legal protections, arguing on its website:

"While everyone has the right to their [sic] opinions about reproductive health care, including . . . abortion . . . Health care providers who object to providing certain services still have an obligation to respect the rights of their patients and to enable them to access the health care they need."

Planned Parenthood wants to compel hospitals and health care providers of conscience to do abortions—it's that simple. Not all of the hospitals and health care providers who oppose this plan are religious. There are people who are not religious who have deep, moral convictions, and they believe that abortion takes the life of a baby. We ought to be nurturing. We should not compel our places of healing to become killing fields.

PRO-CHOICE???

Planned Parenthood reasons that every child should be a wanted child. While the implication of this goal is valiant and an ideal I share, how we go about achieving it is much, much different. I agree, every child deserves to be loved with every ounce of her parents' being—Planned Parenthood, however, would rather kill her than allow her to be born into a home that might not have planned for her or allow another loving family to adopt her. This philosophy turns children into a commodity that is owned—and if they aren't wanted, they are expendable.

Planned Parenthood also claims to promote informed choice for women, but the reality of its words and actions belies this assertion. When describing abortion procedures on its website, it consistently talks about the emptying of the uterus, and the elimination of the "products of conception." Even its clinic layouts aim to avoid the acknowledgement of the life of the unborn. One of their employees explained that "Planned Parenthood is set up so clinic workers never have to see the babies. It's set up that way because having to look at the babies bothers the workers." Although Margaret Sanger, Planned Parenthood's founder, supported abortion, she did recognize that it was murder, admitting, "Abortion was the wrong way—no matter how early it was performed it was taking a life." It is incredibly sad that the Planned Parenthood of today has entirely dismissed the humanity of the unborn, and works to delude women into doing the same.

Planned Parenthood's website states that it believes: "Information about becoming pregnant and about postponing, preventing, continuing, or terminating pregnancy should be easily available; the choice of whether or not to parent should be free and informed," and that: "People need accurate and complete information to make childbearing decisions that are appropriate for them. They want and need to know about abstinence, birth control, abortion, adoption, prenatal care, and parenting in an age-appropriate context." They say that they believe "in trusting individuals and providing them with the information they need to make well-informed decisions about sexuality, family planning, and childbearing."

If all that is true, why do the organization's actions, services, and expenditures not reflect it? Why does it lobby against and sue to overturn every informed consent provision enacted? Why does it provide so many abortions, especially when compared to so few adoption referrals and so little prenatal care?

Mr. Speaker, why would Planned Parenthood and a virtual who's who of abortion activists in America so vehemently oppose the Unborn Victims of Violence Act and promote a gutting substitute in its stead? Why would it take a position so extreme that 80 percent of Americans oppose it? The mothers of these babies have made their "choice" to have their babies, and someone else takes that decision from them. Should a mugger have unfettered access to maim or kill that baby without triggering a separate penalty for the crime?

Why would it oppose parental involvement in their daughters' pregnancy decisions, in one of the most important decisions those young girls will ever make?

Because, Mr. Chairman, Planned Parenthood is not supportive of "choice"—it is supportive of abortion, because, after all, that's how it stays in business.

PP'S TARGETS

Planned Parenthood has been very clever and self-serving in its business practices. Not only has it fought to keep abortion legal and to give it protection that is to be found nowhere in our Constitution, not only has it kept its income stream pouring in from local, state, and federal governments and from clients, but it has successfully brainwashed its target audiences so that its "services" remain in high demand.

Again, Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, laid the groundwork for this business plan back in the early 1900s. In her book, *Pivot of Civilization*, Sanger argued, "We are paying for and even submitting to the dictates of an ever increasing, unceasingly spawning class of human beings who never should have been born at all." In Chapter 5 of that book, which is entitled the "Cruelty of Charity," she pulls no punches in condemning those of us who seek to help poor, disadvantaged pregnant women get maternal health care:

" . . . Organized charity itself is the symptom of a malignant social disease.

Those vast, complex, interrelated organizations aiming to control and to diminish the spread of misery and destitution and all the menacing evils that spring out of this sinisterly fertile soil, are the surest sign that our civilization has bred, is breeding and is perpetuating constantly increasing numbers of defectives, delinquents and dependents. My criticism, therefore, is not directed at the "failure" of philanthropy, but rather at its success. . . .

But there is a special type of philanthropy or benevolence, now widely advertised and advocated, both as a federal program and as worthy of private endowment, which strikes me as being more insidiously injurious than any other. This concerns itself directly with the function of maternity, and aims to supply gratis medical and nursing facilities to slum mothers. Such women are to be visited by nurses and to receive instruction in the "hygiene of pregnancy"; to be guided in making arrangements for confinements; to be invited to come to the doctor's clinics for examination and supervision. They are, we are informed, to "receive adequate care during pregnancy, at confinement, and for one month afterward. Thus are mothers and babies to be saved, "Child-bearing is to be made safe." The work of the maternity centers in the various American cities in which they have already been established and in which they are supported by private contributions and endowment, it is hardly

necessary to point out, is carried on among the poor and more docile sections of the city, among mothers least able, through poverty and ignorance, to afford the care and attention necessary for successful maternity. . . . The effect of maternity endowments and maternity centers supported by private philanthropy would have, perhaps already have had, exactly the most dysgenic tendency. The new government program would facilitate the function of maternity among the very classes in which the absolute necessity is to discourage it.

Such "benevolence" is not merely superficial and nearsighted. It conceals a stupid cruelty . . . Aside from the question of the unfitness of many women to become mothers, aside from the very definite deterioration in the human stock that such programs would inevitable hasten, we may question its value even to the normal though unfortunate mother. For it is never the intention of such philanthropy to give the poor over-burdened and often under-nourished mother of the slum the opportunity to make the choice herself, to decide whether she wishes time after time to bring children into the world.

. . . The most serious charge that can be brought against modern "benevolence" is that it encourages the perpetuation of defectives, delinquents and dependents."

In 1922, Margaret Sanger stated, "All our problems are the result of overbreeding among the working classes." The Planned Parenthood of today has stayed true to Sanger's school of thought, identifying its "core clients" as "young women, low-income women, and women of color." Planned Parenthood's research arm, the Alan Guttmacher Institute, has disclosed that this objective has been achieved: forty-five percent of women who have abortions are college-age, 18–24 years old. Women aged 20–24 have a higher abortion rate than any other group, followed closely by women aged 18–19. Black women are three times as likely as others to have abortions, and the numbers of poor women who have abortions are triple those of others. Since 1973, the year the unelected, lifetime-appointed justices on the Supreme Court made abortion legal on demand, at least 13.8 million minority babies have been aborted. Black and Hispanic women represent only a quarter of American women of child-bearing age, yet account for more than half of all abortions in the US.

Alveda King, the niece of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was herself deceived by the lies of the abortion lobby in the wake of *Roe v. Wade*. Alveda experienced firsthand the tragic consequences abortion inflicts on women who undergo them—she had two abortions and now deeply regrets them—and to their entire families, and to society in general. Citing her uncle, who once said, "The Negro cannot win as long as he is willing to sacrifice the lives of his children for comfort and safety," Alveda asks, "How can the 'Dream' survive if we murder the children?" Today, Alveda is part of a courageous group of women, all of whom have had abortions and have come to regret that fact, called Silent No More. These amazing women help women who have had abortion find peace and reconciliation.

EFFECTS OF ABORTION ON WOMEN

Planned Parenthood also perpetuates the myth that abortion is safer than childbirth. Of

course its never safer for the baby. And the CDC abortion surveillance, however, doesn't even track morbidity, so data on injury and illness from abortion is obtained from the abortion mills—talk about a conflict of interest. Mortality—death to women from abortion—is likely to be underreported. That's true, in part, because women who have had abortions, suffering serious complications, often seek assistance at hospital emergency rooms rather than the abortion mill, and the death certificates, at times, list sepsis or infection, rather than abortion, as the cause of death. Moreover, national reporting of death to women from abortion is extremely passive, thus the likelihood of underreporting.

I would encourage anyone seeking the truth on this question to ask the family and friends of Holly Patterson, who died two weeks after her eighteenth birthday from septic shock after taking RU-486, the abortion pill. Her parents had no idea what she had done until arriving at the hospital the day she died. The abortion pill was provided to her at a Planned Parenthood clinic. A state of California investigation into her death found that that clinic failed to report her death to the state Department of Health, and that it did not give her full information and education on how to take the drug.

This is not surprising, considering that Planned Parenthood was involved in the sham trials that allowed RU-486 to be approved for sale by the Clinton FDA, something that needs to be seriously reconsidered and the drug pulled off the market. Between October 1994 and September 1995, the Des Moines, Iowa, Planned Parenthood clinic participated in these trials. Based on Planned Parenthood's accounting, news reports said no problems had been experienced in the trials. One Iowa doctor watching the news was in disbelief about what he was reading. This doctor, Mark Louviere, had attended to a woman who had participated in the trials and had suffered serious side effects two weeks later, as a result of taking the abortion pill. When Dr. Louviere arrived in the emergency room, the woman had lost between half and two-thirds of her blood volume, and she was in shock. Dr. Louviere immediately took her into surgery to save her life. In his own words, "If near death due to the loss of half of one's blood volume, surgery, and a transfusion of four units of blood do not qualify as a complication, I don't know what does." Planned Parenthood responded that they only reported what happened during the immediate time period of the trial—so the fact that this woman nearly died from taking a drug that they were responsible for reporting the effects of was of no concern to them.

In challenging Planned Parenthood's assertion that abortion is safer than childbirth, I'd also look into the story of Michelle Madden, an 18-year-old college freshman who decided to have an abortion after a doctor told her that the drugs she was taking for epilepsy would cause her baby to be deformed. Michelle collapsed three days after the abortion, and at the hospital, doctors found that pieces of the baby were still inside her. Michelle died of a blood infection resulting from the abortion three days after admission to the hospital.

I would suggest reading about what happened to Mary Pena, 43 years old, the mother of five children, who died after she underwent a second-trimester abortion and bled to death on the operating table.

You might also be interested in the story of Debra Ann Lozinski, who was 16 years old when she went in for an abortion in my home state of New Jersey. Due to a lack of oxygen caused by the general anesthesia she was given for her abortion, Debra fell into a coma, where she remained for several months before developing pneumonia and then going into septic shock. Debra died 12 days after her 17th birthday.

I'd also suggest learning about 22-year-old Tamika Dowdy, who sought an abortion when she was four months pregnant so that she could finish her college education. Paramedics were called to the clinic where Tamika's baby was being aborted, because Tamika was having problems breathing. They were unable to save her.

There are many, many more heart-breaking accounts just like those of these women—and those are only the ones we know about. Multiples of these exist, but the whole story hasn't been disclosed.

Justice Blackmun, the author of *Roe v. Wade*, helped create the safe abortion myth, based on studies and opinions of population control advocates, who were avidly promoting liberalized abortion laws. In reality, not only can abortions immediately kill women, through hemorrhaging, septic shock, uterine perforation, cervical lacerations, etc., but there are also long-term consequences of abortion that can lead to death, including suicide and breast, cervical, and ovarian cancer.

Beyond these deaths, the impact of abortion on women, both physical and psychological, is devastating. Women suffer from many adverse post-abortion reactions, ranging from bleeding, cramping, and infection to depression and substance abuse to breast cancer and infertility. The risk of these detrimental effects of abortion is greatly multiplied in teens, one of the groups Planned Parenthood specifically targets. The brave women in the Silent No More Awareness Campaign have shown us that abortion really does hurt both babies and women, and sometimes even kills both. Abortionist Warren Hern admits, "In medical practice, there are few surgical procedures given so little attention and so underrated in its potential hazards as abortion. It is a commonly held view that complications are inevitable." This is not a simple surgical procedure, the same as any other, and the baby being killed is not a clump of cells.

Planned Parenthood downplays the physical or emotional after-effects of abortion. Their website claims, "Most women feel relief after an abortion. Serious emotional problems after abortion are much less likely than they are after giving birth." While this may be true immediately after the abortion, a new study from New Zealand has shown that the long-term psychological consequences are much greater. Women who have had abortions are, in many cases, the walking wounded.

The people pushing the safe abortion myth are the same as those who inflate the statistics about back-alley abortions. They are the same ones trying to instill a sense of pride about abortion by marketing "I had an abortion" T-shirts. These people, the people behind the propaganda machine at Planned Parenthood, are the same ones who are making millions from abortion, from killing our babies.

Planned Parenthood cannot be trusted, and it appears that even it is starting to recognize that fact. Until July of 2005, its tagline read:

"Planned Parenthood Federation of America is the nation's largest and most trusted voluntary reproductive health organization." It has since dropped the reference to trust and replaced that line with this slogan: "Planned Parenthood Federation of America is the nation's leading sexual and reproductive health care advocate and provider." Mr. Speaker, the truth about Planned Parenthood's pattern of deceit and destruction of human life must at long last be brought to light. The cover-up is over.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET HELLER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the following resolution was passed in honor of Margaret Heller Percell by the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission.

RESOLUTION HONORING MARGARET HELLER PERCELL

Whereas Margaret Heller Percell will retire on February 1, 2006, after thirty-eight years of service to the state of South Carolina and

Whereas Margaret began her service to the State of South Carolina in May, 1967, at South Carolina State University in the Career Planning and Placement Office and

Whereas Margaret became a member of the Governor's staff in August, 1968, as the first black since reconstruction serving under Governors Robert E. McNair and John C. West, respectfully, and

Whereas Margaret jointed the staff of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission

in September, 1975, as staff assistant to the Commissioner and was appointed to the position of Procurement Officer in 1978 where she has served for the past twenty-seven years and

Whereas Margaret has served as a member of the South Carolina Governmental Fleet Managers Association (SCGFMA) and the South Carolina Association of Governmental Purchasing Officers (SCAGPO), Bethune-Westside Chapter of National Council of Negro Women, the Daisy Dunn Johnson Foundation, Hope School Preservation/Restoration Committee, the Ryan Street Home Owners Association and a member of Brookland Baptist Church where she served as president of the Deaconesses for fifteen years.

It is hereby resolved that the members of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission commend Margaret for her exemplary service to the Commission and the State of South Carolina.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll-call votes numbered 5, 6 and 7. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 5 and 6 and "nay" on roll callvote 7.

A TRIBUTE TO NASHVILLE SCRAPPERS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor and great pride that I recognize and congratulate the Nashville Scrappers of Southwest Arkansas, whose outstanding teamwork and dedication on the football field earned the team the Class AAA State Title at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock on December 13, 2005. The Nashville Scrappers embody the spirit of teamwork, determination, and dedication that defines a champion.

As a parent, I understand the important lifetime lessons that teamwork teaches our students in pursuit of a lifetime of success. I have long been an advocate of sports and extra-curricular activities as they complement academic excellence and inspire leadership, character, and perseverance as our students face the challenges of the 21st century.

It is a tremendous honor to once again congratulate the Nashville High School football program on winning the Class AAA State Football Title. I applaud the Nashville Scrappers for their season of dedication. This victory is the result of hard work among the players, student body, coaching staff, Nashville High School faculty, and the community. I salute the coaches, parents, and players who stayed the course and rose to the occasion in becoming state champions.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 10

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine Hurricane Katrina response issues, focusing on the roles of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency leadership.

SD-342

FEBRUARY 13

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings to examine Hurricane Katrina response issues, focusing on waste, fraud, and abuse during the disaster.

SD-342

FEBRUARY 14

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To resume hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Randall S. Kroszner, of New Jersey, and Kevin M. Warsh, of New York, each to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Edward P. Lazear, of California, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

SD-538

Budget

To hold hearings to examine understanding the causes and solutions to addressing the Federal tax gap.

SD-608

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Energy Information Administration's 2006 annual energy outlook on trends and issues affecting the United States' energy market.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for foreign affairs.

SH-216

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act relating to fighting the AIDS epidemic of today.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine Hurricane Katrina response issues, focusing on the Homeland Security Department's preparation and response.

SD-342

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 2197, to improve the global competitiveness of the United States in science and energy technology, to strengthen basic research programs at the Department of Energy, and to provide support for mathematics and science education at all levels through the resources available through the Department of Energy, including at the National Laboratories.

SD-366

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for Indian programs.

SR-485

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Retirement Security and Aging Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Older Americans Act.

SD-430

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Trade, Tourism, and Economic Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the economic impacts of the Canadian softwood lumber dispute on U.S. industries.

SD-562

FEBRUARY 15

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Preston M. Geren, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of the Army, Michael L. Dominguez, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, James I. Finley, of Minnesota, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, and Thomas P. D'Agostino, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration.

SD-106

9:35 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed budget for fiscal year 2007.

SD-628

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine rebuilding needs in Katrina-impacted areas.

SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine video franchising.

SD-562

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine communication and mine safety technology issues.

SD-430

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine executive and judicial nominations.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine progress on the Capitol Visitor Center.

SD-138

11 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider the President's views and estimates to be submitted to the Committee on the Budget.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Budget

To continue hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2007 budget proposal.

SD-608

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine developments in nanotechnology.

SD-562

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to review the progress made on the development of interim and long-term plans for use of fire retardant aircraft in Federal wildfire suppression operations.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 16

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine priorities and plans for the atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy and to review the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the semi-annual monetary policy report to the Congress.

SD-538

10:45 a.m.

Budget

To continue hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2007 budget proposal.

SD-608

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine NOAA budget.

SD-562

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1870, to clarify the authorities for the use of certain National Park Service properties within Golden Gate National Recreation Area and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, S. 1913, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease a portion of the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center for

use as a visitor center for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, S. 1970, to amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, H.R. 562, to authorize the Government of Ukraine to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the manmade famine that occurred in Ukraine in 1932-1933, and H.R. 318, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Castle Nugent Farms located on St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as a unit of the National Park System.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 28

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine Indian gaming activities.

SR-485

2 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Reclamation Reuse and Recycling Program (Title XVI of Public Law 102-575).

SD-366

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Resources to examine the settlement of Cobell v. Norton.

SH-216

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Library of Congress, Open World

Leadership Council, and Government Accountability Office.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine winter storms.

SD-562

MARCH 7

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program.

SD-106

MARCH 9

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine aviation security and the Transportation Security Administration.

SD-562

MARCH 13

3 p.m.

Armed Services

To hold a closed briefing on an update from the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization.

SR-222

MARCH 14

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program.

SH-216

MARCH 15

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the the Secretary of the Senate, Architect of the Capitol, and the Capitol Visitor Center.

SD-138

MARCH 16

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine impacts on aviation regarding volcanic hazards.

SD-562

MARCH 30

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System.

SD-562

APRIL 5

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Sergeant at Arms and U.S. Capitol Police Board.

SD-138

APRIL 26

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine progress on the Capitol Visitor Center.

SD-138

MAY 3

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Government Printing Office, Congressional Budget Office, and Office of Compliance.

SD-138

MAY 24

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine progress on the Capitol Visitor Center.

SD-138